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AND
China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On 4th January, at Peking, the wife of R. DE LUCA, of a son.

On 7th January, at Shanghai, the wife of C. P. LAWSON, of a son.

On 12th January, at Foochow, the wife of ALEXANDER MICHE, I. M. C., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 15th December, at Paoning, Western China, WILLIAM SHACKLETON, M.D., to ALICE SARAH KNIGHTS, both of the China Inland Mission.

On 5th January, at New York, MARGARET VINTON, only daughter of the late Rear-Admiral WILDES, U.S.N., to J. H. CRAVEN, of Shanghai.

On 7th January, at Shanghai, WILFRED FOX, younger son of Captain WILLIAM P. HAMLIN, of Greenock and Shanghai, to ROSE ELLEN, daughter of WALTER LOXTON, of Kobe.

On 12th January, at Shanghai, MARY VON SCHOENHOVEN MYERS, to the Rev. JOSEPH WHITE-SIDE, of Shanghai.

On 14th January, at the Union Church, by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, W. REID BOYD, to ANNIE ALISON ROBERTSON, of Nairn, N.B.

DEATHS.

On 12th January, at Shanghai, E. E. BERTHEL, aged 71 years.

On 20th January, at Hamburg, C. ERDMANN, formerly partner in Carlowitz & Co.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 20th ultimo arrived, per the s.s. *Zielen*, on Thursday, the 19th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Major H. J. Bowman, Sherwood Foresters, has retired.

Tientsin is enjoying one of the mildest winters it has ever known.

A case of cannibalism is alleged to have occurred at Pootung, near Shanghai.

The B. I. steamer *Lindula*, with reliefs for Macao, arrived at that port on January 18th. The troops were all well.

The s.s. *Siberia*, from San Francisco Jan. 17 brought a large shipment of gold—\$4,500,000 U.S. currency.

The Nippon Yusen shipping company has started a fortnightly service between Kobe and the now open port of Dalny.

Mr. S. S. Lyon, lately the American Consul at Kobe, Japan, died on the 1st January, of apoplexy. He was 58 years old.

Yesterday being the anniversary of the Accession of King Edward VII., warships in harbour dressed ship and salutes were fired.

There was an inquest held at Shanghai, touching the death of Mr. George C. Fullerton. The jury decided that heart disease was the cause.

The *Chefoo Daily News* comments that "the fall of Port Arthur is an important step in the development of a bump of conceit." Our contemporary fears the Yellow Danger.

The Bachelors' Ball was given at the City Hall on Jan. 10. About four hundred people, including His Excellency the Governor, were present. The decorations were very pretty.

On Jan. 16 a police raid was made on a supposed brothel in Kennedy Street, Yaumati. A girl took fright, jumped over the third story verandah and died from the injuries of the fall.

We are informed that the steamer *Tung Chow*, which was arrested for having a cargo of unmanifested ammunition, is still in Police custody, and the ammunition is being removed from the ship to local powder magazines.

The *Foochow Echo* reports that the Japanese rejoicings there, over the Port Arthur affair, were "most orderly and mild mafflecking." A large model of a gunboat was carried round, with a procession of lanterns, and there were fireworks, bombs, and "banzai."

General Stoessel and six hundred officers and men arrived at Shanghai 19th January, by the M.M. s.s. *Australien*. They left the next evening. When the *Australien* reached Hongkong to-day, she went into quarantine. Shanghai is declared a small pox infected port.

The ubiquitous Dalai Lama is now reported at Urga, in Central Mongolia, where he is passing the winter with the Chinese Emperor's permission. The report that he went to St. Petersburg is contradicted; and the account of his entry into Peking apparently forgotten.

H.M.S. *Vengeance* has won from H.M.S. *Ocean* the trophy for the best shooting on the China Station with heavy guns.

Mr. W. E. Allen, of the staff of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, had his leg broken while he was riding in North China on Boxing Day. He was dismounted and was passing behind a hired horse ridden by a comrade when it lashed out with both feet and caused the injury referred to.

On the 4th instant General Hasegawa, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Army in Korea, issued the following proclamation, which was communicated to the Korean Government and foreign representatives:—"From this date until further notice the police service for the preservation of peace in Seoul and the vicinity will be administered by the Japanese gendarmerie on behalf of the Korean police authorities."

The *Universal Gazette* says it is reported that Mr. Pierpont Morgan has bought back all the Canton-Hankow Railway bonds, numbering 1,200, held by the Belgians, and the American Government now maintains that the cancellation of the original concession should not be agreed to. Sir Chengtung's idea is that the original agreement will be revised and that there is no benefit in cancelling the original agreement.

The Chinese Minister to Japan (who, apparently, is a bit of a wag) has been asked to keep his eye on the five hundred Chinese who are members of secret societies and now reside in Tokyo. He has telegraphed, says the *China Review*, to say that as the number of Chinese students at present is only three hundred, he will be obliged if the number which he has to watch is made up without delay to the quantity given in his instructions.

The *Kiutoan* Lightship, situated at the southern entrance to the Yangtze, was replaced by a gas-lighted lightship on the 3rd December last. The new lightship is of steel 70 feet long and 21 feet beam, painted red, with the word "Kiutoan" on her sides in white letters. The light is exhibited from a lantern carried by an iron column and is dioptric, group occulting of the fourth order, showing a fixed white light varied by two short eclipses in quick succession every 20 seconds. The centre of the light is 30 feet above the water and the light should be visible in clear weather at a distance of 11 nautical miles.

A Saseho telegram states that two passengers who were on board the *Nigretia*, which was captured off Fusan and is now detained at Saseho, and who at first declared themselves to be Germans, have now confessed that they are Russians. One of them is Lieutenant P. M. Gren, who was in command of the Russian destroyer *Ratstorpny*, and the other is Sub-Lieutenant W. Verloff, of the same destroyer. The examination of the *Nigretia* having been concluded, the Procurators in the Saseho Prize Court expressed their opinion that the vessel as well as the whole of the cargo should be confiscated. Notice has duly been given that those interested may lodge petitions for the release of the steamer or cargo. Captain Harrison, master of the *Nigretia*, and the officers and men of the crew, were released on the 3rd inst. This item from the *Kobe Chronicle*, and other evidence we have since observed, seems to falsify the report of the release of the vessel, to which we recently referred.

NEUTRALITY.

(Daily Press 14th January.)

Whatever may be the final results of the fall of Port Arthur, it is some satisfaction to find that the European Powers are at last waking up to a better comprehension of their duties as neutrals. The progress of the Russian fleet to the waters of the Far East, entailing as it does, even at its best, questions not hitherto considered from the international point of view, was likely to raise many hitherto unsettled problems in international law, which were certain to prove embarrassing to neutral trade. In the present case Russia has shown an evident desire to strain to the uttermost the acknowledged rights of a belligerent, and to place her own construction on questions of international law not hitherto decided, and in certain cases, as the right of neutrals to carry mails, has actually taken it upon herself to remove mails addressed to a hostile Power from neutral ships. Again she has claimed the right to decide of her own motion, without consultation with other Powers, what is or what is not contraband of war. The whole tenor of the Declaration of Paris, to which most of the maritime Powers have given their adherence, was to legalise as far as possible the rights of neutrals, and Russia was one of the Powers which at the time desired to carry the rights of neutrals to the furthest possible limits; she, when she found it was apparently to her own immediate purpose to restrict those rights, was pleased to extend the rights of the belligerent. It was perhaps as well for all parties that the Congress at Paris did not attempt to define these respective rights by definite rules. The whole question was too unsettled, and all the Powers saw that the world was on the eve of great changes, and that it was inadvisable to proceed further than laying down certain main principles, leaving it to experience to decide what hard and fast rules should afterwards be put in practice. These general principles, however, decided certain fundamental points. There is, for instance, no doubt that no neutral Power is justified in rendering active assistance to any one of the belligerents; they are not to help either by supplying men, arms nor ships; and are bound to use every reasonable means to prevent their subjects from doing so. Great Britain was for instance adjudged guilty of neglect in permitting the *Alabama*, plainly fitted out as a man-of-war, to leave her ports at the early part of the American War of Secession. In the same way neutral Powers have been restrained from supplying either Russia or Japan with ships of war, and the sea, at least, has not been made use of for supplying either with arms. Many nations, as England, have made it a legal offence for any of their subjects to be engaged in any such transaction, but here the question as to what is to be considered legal still remains a moot point. The principal mercantile nations view with jealousy any attempt to interfere with their private trade with a belligerent. It is no offence, for instance, to supply Japan or Russia with coal; it is an offence to supply either with coal to aid it in actual hostilities. It is no offence to supply either in any quantity with, say, railway materials. Either may be intended eventually to aid in military or naval operations, but it does not appear that there rests any obligation on the exporter to enquire into these intentions. There is, however, no apparent doubt that in putting coal directly on board a belligerent ship, whether ostensibly for the purpose of aiding it in carrying on hostilities or

not, the ship or the factor is committing a misdemeanour.

For similar reasons it has been held a breach of neutrality for any neutral Power to permit a belligerent ship to make use of its ports to refit, except such repairs as are actually necessary to keep it afloat till it can attain a place of safety. It is likewise forbidden to supply it with coal more than sufficient to reach the nearest port. Here a considerable divergence of opinion is left unsettled. Logically the proviso was intended to mean one of its own ports, but as we have seen in several cases belligerent ships have been supplied with coal to enable them to proceed to another neutral port, where they claim a like privilege. In default of this belligerent ships are by the existing rule required to clear out of the neutral port within twenty-four hours, unless a hostile ship should happen to be there at the time, when it must be granted twenty-four hours' grace. The intention is that a neutral should not under penalty of losing its neutrality afford active aid in carrying on hostilities to either one or other of the belligerents. Now it is certain that in certain cases in the present campaign all these stipulations have been at times disregarded, either from inadvertence, or from an idea that in enforcing them they were practically aiding one or other of the hostile Powers. The attempt of the Russian Baltic fleet to reach Port Arthur has emphasised the importance of arriving at some better understanding on the points at issue. At the beginning of the war both Russia and Japan had powerful fleets in Eastern waters, and it did not seem likely that any other than merely ordinary conditions had to be satisfied, and when with the approbation of all the other Powers China's neutrality came to be secured, it appeared that all that would be required of neutrals would be to carry out the ordinary rules of neutrality. Russia must be blamed for first making the definition of the rights and duties of neutrals a burning question. Her very first step in fact threw down the gauntlet. Under the pretence of being innocent merchant ships certain vessels of hers, flying the ordinary merchant flag, passed the Dardanelles and the Suez Canal. Arrived in the neutral though narrow waters of the Red Sea, they hoisted the naval flag, and at once proceeded to make raids on neutral vessels, claiming the right of deciding on their own sole authority what was contraband, and beyond this boarding and examining neutrals bound to neutral ports and removing mail matter, or offending portions of their cargo. It was manifest that in the interests of commerce at large such a state of affairs could not be permitted to continue, and after a time such pressure was brought to bear that the offending ships were withdrawn. Then Russia announced her intention of sending out a considerable part of her home fleet. The attitude of Europe at first was one of incredulity, and no steps were taken on behalf of any of the European Powers till the actual sailing of the fleet took most of the Powers by surprise. Unfortunately for Russia the very first act of the fleet was to commit a gross outrage, which did not improve the position of Russia in the face of the other nations. Then it was found that Russia had been making secret arrangements for the coaling of the fleet at sea. Up to this time no common understanding had been arrived at as to the treatment of the fleet in the neutral ports at which it might find it necessary to call, and the first port, Vio, had apparently no instructions and allowed it as in ordinary times to ren-

deavour. France, too, having probably never looked upon the expedition as within the range of probabilities, also showed some symptoms of passing over the affair lightly. But then came the consideration as to what the fleet was likely to do. It had committed a grave outrage on setting out, it had misconducted itself in Crete, the remembrance of its deeds in the Red Sea was not assuring, and the Japanese were pressing, and could not be ignored, as they had well-founded complaints to make as to the disregard of international law. All these things set the Powers thinking; they had one and all had about enough of the contest in the Far East, which was blocking the trade of the entire world; they had even been discussing the coming possibilities of putting an end to the war: the fall of Port Arthur was imminent; why should they, by lending actual assistance to Russia, contrary to all international law, prolong the present unsatisfactory conditions?

Looking to Europe, Russia was pursuing a reckless policy at home which was threatening to light again the fires of revolution; was it to the advantage of any of them to aid Russia in her dangerous designs, even at the cost of tearing to pieces international laws which the experience of more than half a century had shown to be in the interest of civilisation at large?

These are some of the considerations which have at this eleventh hour induced the European Powers to consider that issues very much more important than the struggles of Russia and Japan were at stake. Whatever the reasons, we cannot but feel grateful that the Continental States have at last waked up to an apprehension of the fact that their own best interests were at stake.

LIFE IN THE EAST.

(Daily Press 16th January.)

A comparison of life in China with that which is passed by average people at Home has always been a favourite subject of discussion. There is a certain fascination about "Home," with its old associations, which exercises an influence, conscious or unconscious, upon most people who for a time are exiles in the Far East. Life here is looked upon by most people as a dwelling in tabernacles to be succeeded in due time by a better existence in a happier land. The hope of returning to familiar surroundings, to well-known scenes and early surroundings, is steadily kept before their eyes by the large majority of persons from the day they land; and with this hope, a tendency generally arises to depreciate what is actually around them, and to make comparisons, often of a somewhat superficial character, between this ideal and the life which has of necessity to be spent for a time out here. People are thus a little too much inclined to overlook many advantages which they enjoy, and come by degrees to consider they are in a way ill-used by having to pass a part of their lives in a country so different from the one from which they come. The comparisons which are thus made are generally to the disparagement of life in these parts. Its many advantages are taken as a matter of course, and whatever of good may be found, the idea is for ever present "how much better this would be, if it were only at Home." A good deal of this results from the somewhat simple fact that the real life in China is compared with an imaginary one at Home, or at best with one which could only be enjoyed by persons of a certain amount—much more than many consider—of affluence, and in surroundings

which in the nature of things few people are fortunate enough to find. In China people live on the whole fairly comfortably, and have a life which is not incompatible with considerable intellectual enjoyment and activity; and even in the æsthetic direction life is far more enjoyable in the Far East than in many other places, and even at Home to very large classes, whose positions in life give them little leisure for cultivating the Arts, and who in many cases have in this respect to "starve in the midst of plenty." In these days of ready inter-communication there are no places where at times artists of the highest European reputation do not occasionally appear, and though these visits may be few, there is this essential difference, as compared with Home, that people out here are able to hear them, whereas at Home their leisure and means are often too moderate to permit very much in this direction. There are, however, many subjects for intellectual exercise constantly before us—quite enough to prevent minds with anything like individual initiative from becoming cramped or limited, if people will only take the trouble to look round and see what is around them and take an interest in what is actually under their eyes. At present indeed the subjects which are of special interest out here happen to be those which are engrossing the attention of the whole world; but even in normal times there is enough to keep people's intellect on the alert, and no one need want subjects for interesting study in the Far East in these days. We can't of course have picture galleries and grand specimens of architecture such as are to be seen in every large city in Europe; but on the other hand there are many things even in this direction locally, which are well worthy of attention and study, if regarded in some more serious light than as mere passing curiosities.

Taken altogether, the life in these parts may be considered as one which on the whole compares favourably with life in very many other parts, and even in many ways with the ordinary life of people in Europe. We are apt to overlook the fact that at Home, though surrounded by objects conducive to intellectual culture, the opportunities of seeing them—much more of studying them critically—are comparatively rare to anyone engaged in active pursuits. It thus happens that many who return from the East are disappointed at what they find; and discover that in looking back on Home as well as in looking away from it, distance may lend enchantment to the view; and not a few would like to have the old life in China again, and recall many advantages which were taken as of little account while they were within reach. There is, of course, always the climate to take into consideration; but after all, most countries have climates, and some of them very unpleasant ones—such as London fogs; but with moderate care and reasonable mode of life the climate at most places where Europeans reside in China need not create any great alarm. Taken altogether, life in these parts may be quite as full, both physically and intellectually, as in other places, if we avoid the mistake of under-estimating its advantages, and over-estimating those in other places, chiefly from the fact that for the nonce they are unattainable.

The work of dredging Yokohama harbour, which has been in progress some time, is now completed, and vessels with a draught of 35 feet can now be easily accommodated. The Chamber of Commerce Report adds: The *Minnesota* of the Great Northern S. S. Co. of America which is expected shortly, will find ample room for anchorage.

CHINESE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(Daily Press 17th January)

The discussion of the supply of cheap Chinese labour to the mines of South Africa is by no means over. Having served its turn at by-elections, and lasted during the proverbial period of a newspaper wonder, this question, ousted temporarily by more absorbing topics, still keeps cropping up. Both sides, pro and anti, are responsible for fresh sticks of fuel thrown on to the smouldering fire. Lord MILNER has told us that the introduction of every seven coolies to the Rand increases the number of white workmen by one. In a letter reporting the effect of the arrival of seven thousand Chinese, Lord MILNER wrote:—

"The introduction of 7,000 Chinese has led to the increase of 1,000 white workmen. Of these, on the average, half are married. Assuming 500 are married and 500 unmarried, with an average of five per family, this means 3,000 white people living in prosperous conditions who were previously out of work or not in the country at all. But this is not the whole story. Every thousand white men engaged in the mines involves a population of equal number, and probably considerably more in subsidiary industries as artisans, traders, &c. Of these men an even larger proportion are married than is the case with the miners. All told, there are at least 8,000 to 10,000 white people who have found employment and means of livelihood as a direct result of the importation of 7,000 Chinese."

All those assumptions are rather bold as coming from an official, and we should be inclined to put the number of married colonists of the kind referred to at much less than half, while the average of five is much too high to assess the families of the "rolling stones" who have mostly gone to spy out the land, with an eye to quick returns and large profits. On the other hand, one of the most bitter and least scrupulous opponents of the scheme tells us that the coolies are sorry they went. They find, he says, the regulations of their new home very oppressive. The newspapers, we are told, with some apparent exaggeration, teem with reports of riot, refusal to work, and murders. The South African Constabulary has had to ride down, it is reported, a mob of Chinese, and several Chinese overseers were, it is alleged, killed. Several Chinamen have been sentenced to be flogged, and many others have, it is further stated, gone to jail for refusing to work. The British employes are finding it necessary to carry revolvers. On Nov. 24th, a fight between Kaffirs and coolies at the New Kleinfontein mine was so violent that the police had to charge with fixed bayonets. Now why should we be troubled with all these contradictory statements; and why should men be so heated by a simple commercial proposition that their truth-telling capacity should, as it were, become fused, and run to waste? The Chinese coolies who left these shores are not the sort of men to force any white man to carry a revolver. On the transports, the doctors went amongst them entirely unarmed; and these alleged desperadoes, when some of their dirtier companions were put into the stocks and received compulsory ablutions at the nozzle of the ship's hose pipe, laughed like children. Children they are, in many ways, and if the South African Police had to resort to arms, it would not be their fault. They want to go and earn money. They can, even under the scheme so much decried, do better for themselves than they can in their congested and officially-improverished home districts. The mine owners want them, and pay for them. The work they are to do is not the work that the white man wants. The potter may be

set down to political needs; the lies to which we are treated need a lot of explaining. So long as we realize that the partisan statements being made are absolutely unreliable, not much harm is done; but we do not always remember the need for the pinch of salt. These later tales of terrible doings in South Africa should not be taken too seriously, any more than the enthusiastic economics of Lord MILNER.

LITIGATION IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 18th January.)

One of the latest items of news from the mainland will not please the good people at Home who are subscribing for the propagation of the gospel in China. It will possibly give rise to considerable doubt as to how far the glowing accounts of progress sent by the missionaries are trustworthy. It is that many Chinese are becoming Christians because they have discovered that the provincial magistrates, in disputes between Christians and non-Christians, incline to favour the former. Of course, prior to 1900, it was all the other way. The magistrates, swayed by a natural prejudice, almost invariably gave verdicts against the converts, and thereby provoked much discontent, numerous complaints, and frequent embarrassing interference by the missionaries. Their sympathies still would incline them to favour those litigants who have remained loyal to the old faiths, particularly if the suitable and usual inducements were forthcoming; but they have learned in the last five years the aptitude of the Christians for making "plenty bobbery," and consequent trouble for themselves. The *Tientsin Times* observes that in certain districts "it is to be feared the followers of a certain church have brought undue pressure to bear, and that the fear of international complications has been in some instances worked upon to coerce favourable judgments from the weaker officials. That the more ignorant provincial officials are thus placed at times in positions of extreme difficulty is very probable." There is, therefore, small matter for surprise that personal convenience has outweighed the magisterial devotion to national prejudices. It is also far from unnatural that many of their constituents, seeing the material advantages to be gained thereby, should have enrolled their names among those of the genuine converts who may be assumed to exist. The Chinese Government, having received a memorial from a Censor complaining of the fear-inspired partiality of the magistrates, has, we notice, ordered the Board of Punishments and the Board of Commerce to draw up regulations for the settlement of all disputes likely to arise between the converts and the unconverted, the said regulations to be circulated amongst all Viceroys, Governors, and Magistrates for study, and strict observance. Our contemporary thinks that "if the proposed regulations are framed on broad and practical lines they may be of great service," but therein lies the difficulty. Broad such regulations might be, but practicality is quite another affair. How any conceivable set of regulations can achieve the object aimed at, it is difficult to imagine; and they are much more likely to emphasise the trouble than to diminish it. Common as are the sneers at "the Great Unpaid," no one is likely to compare the British J. P. with a Chinese Magistrate to the advantage of the latter; and as the "conscientious objector" to vaccination has proved a consistent stumbling-block to the former, so these converts will continue to be thorns in the flesh of the latter, notwithstanding all

regulations. Prejudice will still find its outlet, and the same admixture of motives will still sway the judgments of the weaker-minded arbiters of the Middle Kingdom.

THE DIAMOND DISCOVERIES IN BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

(Daily Press, 19th January.)

To Borneo, British North Borneo, which produces, according to the *Directory and Chronicle*, "elephants, rhinoceros, deer of three kinds, wild cattle, pigs, bears, and pythons," the minds of many readers will this morning doubtless turn with much interest, when they read on the next page the story of the discovery of diamond clay in that territory. As the Home paper from which we quote has stated, the story unfolded before the proprietors of the Chartered Company reads like a page from STEVENSON'S treasure-hunting romance. Even the sketch map, showing the locality of the treasure, was forthcoming in some papers. We need not repeat the story, so graphically told in the extract referred to; but the intimate trade relations subsisting between British North Borneo and this Colony, as well as with China, compel us to regard the new announcement with more than a mild interest. At present the Company is doing very well out of timber, tobacco, sago, rice, gums, gutta-percha, coconuts, rattan, and all varieties of jungle produce. What it may do as a seller of diamonds, if the performance should equal the promise of the blue clay now being tested, it is hard to put mental limits to. It should pale to insignificance the beggarly \$1,096,000 which the Company expects to make this year. Naturally, these hard-headed men of business poo-pooed the story of the prospector at first, and did not think it worth while mentioning to the previous meeting of shareholders. When their own agent read covered the outcrop of blue clay, somewhere up the Labuk river, and sent samples; when a London expert certified that those samples were "true blue," like the Kimberley basal clay, they could no longer refrain from reporting what was bound to raise lively hopes. A sensation of sorts was the immediate result. The papers at Home last month were full of it, and share buyers and adventurers alike fixed their attention on the land that sends the Chinese parts most of their timber. Borneo has always been known as a diamond-producing country, but, as in Hindustan, the supply has for long been believed to be almost exhausted. The once famous name Golconda, though preserved as a sort of simile, or literary reference, now fails to convey any such opulent significance as the modern public attaches to Kimberley, Klondyke, and so on. A brochure on diamonds, published exactly fifty years ago, mentions that "the island of Borneo is the only other eastern locality which can boast of its (diamond) production. The diamond occurs at Pontiana, in that island, directly under the line, and at Benjermassin, about three degrees south of the equator. Here it is said to be of a quality superior to that of the gems found in the other Indian localities; and to be distinguished in consequence by the name of *Landak*, the place where they are found. Here also the diamond occurs in alluvial soil, accompanied with gold. One diamond of 367 carats was found there upwards of a century ago." The clay under which they were then found was described as "black," not blue. VOYSEY in his *Asiatic Researches* mentions sandstone breccia as the predominant strata for Asiatic diamonds. It is quaint to read now the Madras prices for Brahma diamonds, of

"twenty pagodas" for "one manjalin" (two carats); and "400 Madras pagodas" as the price of an "eight manjalin," or sixteen carat stone. No mention is made of Kimberley, whose gemmy treasures were not discovered until 1867, the great rush following three years later. The few hundreds composing the white population of British North Borneo may not, as a consequence of this discovery, rise to the twenty-nine thousand of the South African diamond city, but if the two blue clays be found equally rich, the B.N.B. Company will have hard work to keep prospectors away. That the climate is "particularly pleasant for the tropics," is a factor that should add to the attractive power of this now more than ever fascinating country.

WEIHAIWEI GOLD MINES.

(Daily Press, 20th January.)

Some people, of griffinesque standing, might be tempted to entertain the belief that the men of Shanghai are incapable of taking things seriously. It is not, however, levity; but rather a MARK TAPLEY cheerfulness of demeanour under all circumstances. Early last year there was a crowded "in-ligation meeting" of electors, who had met to denounce, by vote and speech, the leaning of the Electrical Department of the Municipal Council toward municipal trading. A more light-hearted audience it would have been difficult to select, and yet they did the business just as determinedly as, say, an anti-war or anti-opium meeting would have done vehemently or lugubriously. Of numerous other instances that could be adduced from this Paris of the Orient, the most recent and the most striking is undoubtedly that afforded by the shareholders of the Weihaiwei Gold Mining Co. Ltd., who met on the 11th instant to consider the financial position of their company. Inspired by the optimism of a Mr. DUFF, who in turn was credulous of the stories of one MIAU, "a native," these hard-headed gentlemen of commerce subscribed for modern machinery to delve in abandoned native workings at Weihaiwei for the yellow metal that, like the historical Earl of WARWICK, makes sovereigns. Thirty thousand shares of twenty dollars were paid up, and their last quotation was "\$7 sales; \$6½ buyers," the broker adding this comment:—"Through faults of management and unsatisfactory reports, shares fell during the week to as low as \$4 and close at about \$6½. The financial position of this company seems in a very parlous condition." At the meeting just mentioned, ironical cheers greeted the first announcement of the Chairman, Mr. MARCUS WOLFF, that the company was "practically insolvent." Only a few weeks before this, the same shareholders had enthusiastically subscribed debentures to drag this "practically insolvent" company out of a tight place; and now, finding that the additional sacrifice had failed to placate the gods of Luck, they indulged in cheerful irony. There was, to all appearances, enough to make them gloomy, but the very long report of the meeting, spread over two issues of our contemporary, is punctuated here and there with "laughter" and "applause." Mr. T. LAUNCELOT DAWSON, the manager, having previously bombarded them with hopeful reports, now explained that the lodes so far examined, and giving excellent assays, had developed the bad habit of "faulting" against a wall, or of diving down suddenly into the un-get-at-able bowels of the earth. His most hopeful opinion was that the mills might just pay expenses for three months more, by

dispensing altogether with a manager, to leave Mr. VERSCHOYLE to take charge and do all the assaying, and to begin afresh in another spot which the obliging MIAU had pointed out. Mr. DAWSON, although thus anticipating that his services were to be discarded, and recognising that his present report would be "most unpalatable," fell in with the Shanghai spirit to the extent of wishing the Directors "the compliments of the Season." The Directors, considering that they already owed a thousand dollars or so more than they could pay, believing that Mr. DAWSON had now lost all faith in the mine, and deciding that liquidation was the next step to take, relieved Mr. DAWSON from further duty, and despatched the optimistic Mr. DUFF to take charge. The shareholders would not hear of this. They demanded a reconstruction, with fresh directors, and the re-instatement of Mr. DAWSON. They would not believe that a company owning a real gold mine could be insolvent, and they appointed a sub-committee to examine the books. At this stage, the announcement was made that the secretary had been too busy to bring the books up to date. This would have made some assemblies of shareholders angry, but not so a Shanghai gathering. Here our contemporary's reporter had to write, in the customary brackets, the word "laughter." They were warned that reconstruction would take at least six weeks, and involve the payment in Hongkong of fees amounting to one thousand taels. "Maskee! What about the concentrates in hand?" was, in effect, the retort. The CHAIRMAN said about £700 worth, but plaintively added "but if we get half of that we are lucky. We have to put it in bags." This seems to convey the impression that the company was so impoverished that it could not afford bags in which to pack its bullion. It is again recorded that the anxious shareholders laughed. Perhaps they had in mind the man of whom BARRY PAIN wrote, who would be a miser, and who announced that he had already provided himself with a hole in which to store his hoard. The shareholders deputed one of their number to visit the mines and make a report; and for the rest, contented themselves with the putting in of a requisition for another meeting to consider reconstruction. Seriously, the experiences of these cheerful people go to show how unwise it is to speculate in Chinese gold mines. We do not believe that at Weihaiwei or anywhere near it is there even a petit Klondyke. Gold there undoubtedly was there, once, but the Chinese themselves long ago got all that was worth taking away. With their primitive methods, the stuff might even be "paying dirt" still; but that the precious ore exists in quantity and quality sufficient to return a fair interest on capital invested in modern plant we shall continue to disbelieve, in face of all reports to the contrary that Mr. DUFF may send. As the title to the property is good, and England is more likely now to develop Weihaiwei than to abandon it, those who hold or buy the sadly depreciated stock of the Company, and can afford to wait a bit, may ultimately be rewarded; but further and final disaster only can attend persistence in developing the property as a gold mine.

The Messrs. Robert Stephenson and Co. (Limited), of the Springfield Locomotive Works, Darlington, have been awarded, in face of severe competition from British and Continental builders, an order for ten large four-wheeled coupled passenger locomotives, with four-wheeled leading bogie and six-wheeled tenders, for the Shanghai-Nanking Railway.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

(Daily Press, 21st January.)

So much has been written about the American concession for the railway between Canton and Hankow, about its partial capture by the Belgians, and about the political aspects of this re-arrangement of the proprietary, that it is almost impossible to refer to it again without risk of tedious repetitions. The recent developments, however, and the importance of the matter both commercially and politically, seem to demand at least some short comment. Our readers must by now be familiar with the state of affairs which led to the stoppage of the work of the engineers, before more than twenty miles of the Yueh-han Railway had been constructed; to numerous agitations among the gentry of Hunan and Kwangtung; and to the recent bombshell dropped by the Imperial Government when it instructed its Representative at Washington to proclaim the cancellation of the bonds. If this were meant merely to bring matters to a head between the American Government and the Chinese, it was not long in answering its purpose, as the telegram of Secretary HAY shows. The American Government now recognises the American-China Development Company as a bona fide American concern. This would not have mattered very much, would not have eliminated all possible trouble, as we pointed out last October, if the controlling interest had remained in the hands of the Belgian catspaws of Russia and France; but the Belgian interests have been bought out. After six years of intrigue, alarming to British interests, and destructive of American prestige in the eyes of the Chinese, the terms of CHANG CHIH-RUNG's proviso against transference to other nations or persons of other nationality have been respected. The property is again in American hands, or at least, so we are informed. It may be remembered that M. MALI, one of the Belgians on the Board, had naturalised as an American citizen. Whether the others have followed suit, and so justified the claim that the concession is again in American hands, we do not know. It cannot matter, however, as the announcement by Secretary HAY is tantamount to an American Government guarantee that there are to be no further political entanglements. The Franco-Russian dream of a junction between north and south, shutting us out of the Yangtze sphere, is over. The American decision must reconcile the Chinese, and satisfy the British, and we may hope to see a resumption of the actual work of construction of this line which is to bridge the six hundred and fifty miles of territory separating the important trade door of Canton with the rapidly rising mart of Hankow. Commercially, this is a happy issue, for the American-China Development Company may be relied upon, now that the political causes of obstruction have been removed, to get forward much more expeditiously than the Chinese, who were so anxious to make the railway themselves, but could not produce the necessary funds. Arrangements have been made, we are told, to hasten the completion of the line, under permanent American control, and all British and American residents in China are pleased.

The Model Dairy of Messrs. Walte & Co., at Tientsin, has lost over twenty fine imported cows during the past few days from an outbreak of rinderpest. Though the cattle are all stalled, it is unknown how the disease reached the dairy, which has always been conducted on the best and latest sanitary principles. Sympathy will be felt with the firm in their heavy financial loss.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

16th January.

The latest balance sheet of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank must be a record one. Lucky are they who bought shares at the issue price of \$125, and have held on to them. The quotation now stands at \$705. After adding a million to the reserve fund instead of the usual half a million (making that fund to stand at \$18,000,000 while the paid-up capital is only \$11,000,000), and writing off property account \$200,000, the Directors are able to recommend a substantially increased distribution to the shareholders, and to carry forward no less than a million and a half. *C'est magnifique!*

Naturally while exchange stands high a good deal of complaint is heard about the maintenance of charges which were fixed when the exchange value of the dollar fell to 1s. 7d. and even lower. If there were any stability about the exchange rate of the dollar, the yearning for a reduction of prices to something like the old rates would demand immediate attention, but until we get fixity of exchange I fear we can hope for very little in the way of a cheapening of prices. As the dollar has fallen in value, not only has rent and the cost of living increased, but it must not be forgotten that salaries have also increased. The butcher who now charges much more for his meat than he did five years ago, doubtless finds that in the same period the working expenses of his business have increased in something like the same proportion—perhaps not quite to the same extent as his profits, but still to an extent which will not admit of a reversion to former prices in the market list. Before we can hope for much in that way, landlords must be induced to reduce rents to the old figure, and men must be found to work for the old wages. And as agreements for terms of years preclude hope of immediate change in that direction, even a decision to adopt a gold standard of currency could not immediately produce any substantial lowering of the cost of living. The only change we are likely to see in rents is in the direction of increase.

Following so closely as it does upon the triple execution in this Colony the sentence of four years' imprisonment by the Russian tribunal at Shanghai for murder presents a striking contrast in ideas as to the punishment which fits the crime. By the way, it is worth remarking with reference to the triple execution in this Colony that though there was some talk of a petition for a reprieve, there seemed to be a remarkable unanimity of opinion as to the justice of the sentence and the wisdom of carrying it into effect. Happily, it is rare indeed that a white man stands at the bar of the Supreme Court in this Colony arraigned on a murder charge. It is more than twenty years since a white man stood on the scaffold in Victoria Gaol, but many Chinese have been hanged in the interval, and the memorable event in the police annals of the Colony placed on record last week demonstrates to the Chinese population that the British law as it is administered here—as elsewhere—is no respecter of persons.

There were good old times in China many centuries ago when the exemplary punishments consisted merely in a change in dress, the criminals having to dress in a certain way according to their offences. The step backwards to this from a four years' sentence for murder and deprivation of civil rights does not seem a great stride. In the days when China had these exemplary punishments, a Sage tells us "nobody committed an offence." The world, however, has changed since then. People in those days were "simple and honest"—now, according to the same authority, they are "deceitful and over-active," and that being the case I am afraid that if we revert to the old exemplary punishments of China, the occupation of the fashion-makers in dress would, like Othello's, be lost. Most people would wear the uniform!

I am reminded by the preceding notes of a complaint which has reached me from the vicinity of the Gaol. It appears that the regulation hour for tin-dish washing in the

gaol is about 3 a.m., after which hour sleep in the surrounding dwelling-houses becomes well-nigh impossible. Some years ago there was a similar complaint, but a petition to the authorities brought the suffering residents peace at nights. Now the annoyance has been revived, and I am asked to publicly mention the matter in the hope that the "tintinabulation" may be deferred to an hour when the world and his wife are awake and can bear the noise without sore vexation of spirit.

How the acquisition of the Tajong Pagar docks at Singapore by the Government is likely to affect Hongkong is a question which is not readily answered until fuller information is available of the intentions of the Government. It is doubtless one outcome of the conferences which have in recent years been held at Singapore by the Admirals of the China, Australia and East Indies squadrons. Just before his retirement from the Governorship of Singapore, Sir Frank Swettenham remarked in a public speech: "You have in Singapore the making of a great naval base which we believe is already almost impregnable." Whether the Government intends to create this great naval base we shall soon know; but whether they do or whether they don't Hongkong is certain to remain the chief base for docking and refitting, and the private ship-building establishments of Hongkong may hope to derive some advantage for some years to come from the expropriation of the Tajong Pagar Docks.

BANYAN.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 16th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LOO WING KEE V. THE YU HING LUNG FIRM. In this action, plaintiff, who sought to recover \$4,721.42 owing to him by the defendant firm, on the 12th inst. obtained judgment, but His Lordship stayed execution till the fact of his having obtained judgment was advertised in a Chinese newspaper. As before, Mr. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the plaintiff.

Mr. Ferrers said they had advertised. His Lordship made the necessary order.

MELCHERS AND CO. V. THE CHIN FUNG WING FIRM.

The plaintiff firm sued the defendant firm (of No. 282, Queen's Road Central) for \$3,069.64 damages with respect to eighteen different contracts made by the defendant firm between March 1902 and June 1904. Mr. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. T. V. Steavenson, appeared for the plaintiff firm; the defendants were absent.

The assistant manager of the plaintiff firm produced sixteen of the eighteen contracts. He said that they had mislaid the other two, one being dated the 27th December 1902 (goods to the value of \$162), and the other the 24th June 1904 (goods to the value of \$270). When the plaintiff firm received the goods the defendants were notified. The whole of the contract they were claiming for, including godown expenses and insurance, amounted to the value of \$8,181. The plaintiffs had auctioned the goods, realising \$5,135.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff firm with costs.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

SIN FUK HING LUNG FIRM V. CHUNG LA CHIN.

This was a claim for \$121. Mr. R. Harding appeared for the defence.

The plaintiff being absent Mr. Harding asked for judgment for the defendant with costs. The defendant claimed that he had paid the money.

His Lordship—Mr Thomson should have been here. You had better tell them you are applying for judgment. If that is all right let me know and I will give you costs to-morrow. Make out an affidavit of facts and serve notice if you can.

LEUNG YEE V. H. D. NORONHA.

The plaintiff in this action sued the defendant for \$484.84, being the principal and interest on a promissory note made on January 8th 1904. Mr R. Harding appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. T. V. Steavenson for the defendant.

The plaintiff said—On the 8th January 1904 the defendant gave me this promissory note. I have demanded payment a number of times, the last time being on the 16th December.

Cross-examined—I demanded payment at his office opposite the King Edward Hotel. I saw him personally. I know Leung Chung; he was my father; he is dead. He died on the 2nd February 1904. This money was advanced in Wellington Street, at my father's house. The defendant, when I applied for payment, put me off for a month and said he was selling houses, and would then pay. It was my own money.

The defendant—I did not borrow \$381 in January last as stated, but signed a promissory note. Originally I borrowed some money and the interest went on accumulating till at last I gave this promissory note. I handed that note to Leung, who in 1901 lived in that road going from Lyndhurst Terrace, and subsequently in Wellington Street, where I gave him that promissory note. Several relatives of Leung came to my office in July and demanded payment of the money I borrowed. They told me Leung was dead and wanted me to pay some of the money I owed—for house and funeral expenses.

Cross-examined—I will swear that when I signed this promissory note the man I saw was not the plaintiff; it was a stout old man whom I had dealings with on several occasions. Originally the debt was for \$180.

By the Court—I did give a promissory note and do owe the money to someone.

His Lordship ordered that the defendant and plaintiff be faced, and told the interpreter to tell the plaintiff what the defendant had said.

The plaintiff—He gave me the note and I gave him the money.

The defendant—I never saw the plaintiff before December last, when he came to my office for the first time.

The plaintiff—The last time was in December.

His Lordship—One of you is making a misstatement as to fact. Who wrote this note?

The plaintiff—My younger brother who is at the electric light works at Hung Hom.

His Lordship—You can have judgment for the defendant or an adjournment.

Mr. Steavenson—I informed Mr. Harding that the man was dead.

His Lordship said it was a very serious case; he would remand it for a week. Then, addressing the defendant—They have got this note; you have to pay to someone. What is the use of all this?

Tuesday, 17th January,

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

SIN FUK HING LUNG FIRM V. CHUNG LAI CHIN.

This claim for \$120 came on for the first time on the 16th inst. The plaintiffs were absent, and Mr. R. A. Harding, for the defence, asked for judgment for the defendant with costs. His Lordship told him to serve notice on the plaintiffs if he could notifying them that he was applying for costs against them.

Mr. Harding called one of his Chinese clerks who said:—Yesterday afternoon I attended at the plaintiff's house in Lower Lascar Road. I took with me a letter. I found the house closed up and a plank nailed across the door.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant and costs.

ANDREW CASEY V. THE WING ON STEAMBOAT CO., LD.

This was a claim for \$600 and costs, damages—three months' pay in lieu of notice—for

wrongful dismissal. Mr. Almada e Castro appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. G. K. H. Brutton's office) for the defendant company.

The plaintiff said—I am a master mariner. I took command of the s.s. *Chu Kong* on the 1st July, 1904, in Manila, and brought the ship to Hongkong. She is a British-owned craft, registered at Hongkong. When I arrived here I was engaged to run the vessel on the West River trade, my salary being \$200 per month. I continued in command from the 1st August till the 30th November last, when I received a letter notifying me that my services were not required. I received no previous notice. I interviewed Mr. Chui Lai Chuen, the manager of the Company, asking him why he had dismissed me. He replied that one of the other owners had a friend whom he wanted to go captain. He gave no other reasons, and when I asked if he had anything against me he said "No." After that I gave up command of the ship. A new master boarded that same day, but this man went ashore again shortly afterwards, and the manager came on board. The latter, at the Harbour Master's Office, asked me to go for another trip up river. I refused, as I had been discharged. He then offered me \$50 to do so, but I still refused. Then he offered me \$100 to go, and I told him if he would give me three months' pay in lieu of notice I would take dismissal and take the ship on that trip. That is the custom.

His Lordship—Is that so?

Mr. P. W. Goldring—I understand from the Harbour Master that that is the established custom, My Lord.

His Lordship—An employer need not give his reason for summarily dismissing an employee at the time of dismissal, but he must give them in Court if sued, and the grounds must be good. You need not tell your servants "why" if it be good.

Plaintiff continuing—I have never received any complaints of any description from either the owners or manager during the time I was in their ship.

By the Court—I have never been drunk on board the ship. There are no grounds to complain of my behaviour either afloat or on shore.

Cross-examined—I received the letter of dismissal on the 30th November. It was handed to me by the manager of the Company in his own office. An action was brought against me by my steward in respect of provisions in October last, when judgment was given against me for \$69.

Mr. Goldring—Were there 228 glasses of whisky supplied to you between the 1st and 23rd of October?—Yes, supplied to me and sixteen passengers.

His Lordship—I do not believe he consumed 228 glasses of whisky.

Plaintiff—Included in those 228 glasses were orders for treating passengers and Custom House officers.

Mr. Goldring—Here is the chief engineer's book, My Lord.

His Lordship—That has nothing to do with the case; I do not allow it. The captain's book does not show anything; the captain may have been hospitable.

By the Court—The passengers were all Europeans; this book refers to several trips—three trips a week for three weeks. On two occasions we had sixteen passengers.

Cross-examined—I received no warning whatever. I deny that Chui Lai Chuen warned me about my behaviour; what he did say on one occasion was not to spend too much money on drinks for Custom House officers. On the 28th August I had a collision with the same company's s.s. *Pak Kong*. On that occasion I was sober; it was when approaching the wharf in a typhoon. On the night of the 20th September I ran into a Chinese torpedo-boat at Kongmoon. She had been covered by another steamer. When I saw her I went full speed astern, and my ship was stopped at the time of collision. I was sober then. There was no damage, excepting a slight cut to one of the rails, done by the collision. It is not a fact that I refused to go full speed astern when the pilot called my attention to the other vessel; I called the pilot's attention to it. I have never fouled the wharf at Hongkong.

Re-examined—At the time referred to, when I took the ship out of the pilot's hands, there

would have been a serious collision if I had not taken over charge.

By the Court—Our tonnage was 286.

Chi Lai Chuen said—I am managing director of the defendant company. My reasons for dismissing the plaintiff were that he came in collision with vessels several times; he drank and had the smell of drink about him. Once when he drank much at Tramshui he said he would drive the quartermasters and all ashore. I did not hear him say this myself, but it was reported to me. I told him if it occurred again I would dismiss him. That was about August or September. I received reports frequently. I once gave the captain permission to take one person up river free of charge. He took a number of men and a number of women, the men paid and the women did not. The captain had no business to take more than one person free of charge. I have never seen the plaintiff lying down with drink, but I have seen him make weak steps, and he has smelt strongly of drink; he assured me that it was all right so long as he did not get drunk. I did not hand the letter of dismissal to the plaintiff myself.

Cross-examined—That excursion passage was not mentioned to me about a week before, nor did I ever give permission that lady passengers might be carried free.

Mr. Goldring also called a Chinese tallyman, the second engineer and the ship's comradore; and afterwards asked for an adjournment to call further evidence, a European witness.

His Lordship—No; it would be dangerous in the extreme, and it would have no effect on me to call witnesses at this stage for a specific purpose.

Mr. Goldring, before reviewing the evidence, said that such a firm as the defendants—owners of two or more steamers—would not put up false witnesses and run the risk of perjury for such a paltry sum as \$600. Mr. Chui Lai Chuen was a shareholder in several local companies. The quantity of drink consumed on board was excessive. The Court, he knew, was prone to believe Europeans before anyone else, but

His Lordship—It makes no difference to me. I value evidence according to the way it is given to me. What is very strongly in my mind is that if you had a reasonable cause you said nothing to that effect in your letter. That letter is of very great importance, and was written by your authority. The evidence is not of very great weight, as all the witnesses are in your employ to day. It occurs to me that if you had really had this cause when you dismissed him you would have said that you could not stand such conduct any longer. It comes to this—you cannot turn a man on to the street at a moment's notice and deprive him of his bread.

Mr. Goldring—We have offered, on learning of his circumstances, to give him some money, but deny all responsibility.

His Lordship—But he has his professional reputation to maintain.

Shortly after Mr. Almada e Castro commenced to address the Court His Lordship stopped him and gave judgment as follows:—I do not think that the defendants have just reason for the dismissal of this master mariner. Though it is quite true that a master may dismiss a servant without giving any reason, and may subsequently justify his action by proving good reason, the onus lies on him of proving that there actually was good reason at the time of dismissal. A master may justify himself in a case where good reason exists, but of which he was not aware at the time of dismissal, but a cause justifying dismissal must have actually existed at the time when a master has dismissed a servant from his employment. This instant dismissal is alleged to be on account of intemperate habits on the part of this master mariner. It seems to me that this was not the real reason. The manager of the company admitted that when at the Harbour Office he proposed that the plaintiff should go on another voyage, but he refused to go unless they gave him three months' pay in lieu of notice. This action on the part of the manager goes to show that if the interests of the company required the instant dismissal of the plaintiff they would not have allowed him to go a further voyage in command of the ship. When no reason for dismissal is given it is

always suspicious. With a company having the standing Mr. Goldring has asked me to believe it is reasonable to expect that they would give the cause, as it seems a cruel thing to summarily dismiss a man from a ship without giving any cause whatever, and damaging to his reputation. I do not see any reason why this company should take this course had they really believed the captain given to intemperance. Their real reason, I am inclined to believe, was what the captain was told—that they had to make room for a relative or friend of an owner. This is nothing unusual; it has been done before now and will be done till the end of time. When you want to make room for a relative or friend, though, you must give proper notice or a sum in lieu thereof. I find for the plaintiff with costs.

Wednesday, 18th January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

RAPE.

Tsang Hing, a Chinese house-boy, was charged with defiling a European girl under the age of twelve (to wit, six years and nine months), also with attempting same and with indecent assault.

The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted. The prisoner was not defended.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. A. Bain (foreman), M. Simmons, R. B. Cooper, W. Goetz, L. A. Lammert, G. Smith and E. B. Raymond.

The name of Sydney Douglas Hickey was also called, but met with no response.

The Jury finally returned a verdict of guilty on the first count, and His Lordship sentenced the prisoner to imprisonment for the term of his natural life.

ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER.

Wong Tsing Tsung was charged with manslaughter.

Mr. Calthrop (acting on behalf of the Attorney-General), instructed by the Crown Solicitor, prosecuted. The prisoner was not defended.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following Jury was empanelled:—Messrs. G. W. Gegg, A. Bain, L. E. Lammert, J. Mills, J. Wells, R. B. Cooper and G. P. Curry.

Mr. Calthrop in opening the case said that the prisoner on the 26th December last, in the capacity of coxswain of the launch *Wing Loi*, while navigating in the Harbour opposite Jardine's Wharf, came into collision with a sampan. The Jurors had to find out whether that action was due to the carelessness and negligence of the prisoner. The sampan people, it appears, did not see the launch till it was about thirty feet off. They were steering the craft in an easterly direction. A sail was up, but they were using oars also. The launch ran into the starboard counter of the sampan, upset it, and the occupants were thrown into the water. The occupants of the sampan were the master, his wife, three children, and eight or nine passengers. Dr. Forster happened to see the occurrence and immediately went to the rescue. Owing to his pluck, two children entangled in the wreck were got out. The Doctor managed to bring one of them around, but the other succumbed. One of the passengers was afterwards found to be missing, and his dead body was recovered later.

After the witnesses for the prosecution had given evidence the prisoner called witnesses to prove that the sampan was overloaded, and that she had wrongfully altered her course.

The prisoner made a statement as follows:—I blew my whistle twice to draw the attention of another steam-launch towing a boat. A large steamer was anchored on my right-hand side, about three cheungs from the launch towing the boat. There was a cargo boat at the steamer's stern going towards the east. I had to go towards the north and the sampan in question was going towards the north. Before the collision I went astern. Our boat stopped and the sampan came against us. There were too many people in it, and that is what made her topple over and sink. I could

not turn to the south because there were a number of vessels there.

Mr. Calthrop, addressing the jury, emphasised the point that a steam launch should keep out of the way of anything not under steam. He pointed out in conclusion that such negligence on the part of the defendant rendered him culpable in this matter, as through his negligence was caused the death of these people.

His Lordship said:—Gentlemen; you must take it as a general principle that wherever one is in control of anything that contains an element of danger the duty is imposed of bringing into the control of that thing such care and skill as will prevent the dangerous thing becoming a danger in fact. If the management of this thing containing an element of danger is negligent, and death results in consequence, that is manslaughter. That is the principle of law found necessary for the protection of the public who have to use and be in the presence of things containing an element of danger. With such a thing as a railway, for instance, the engine driver must bring into the act of driving the train skill and care, and if by his negligence a collision takes place and death results because of this it is manslaughter. As you must know, there have been several cases where engine drivers have been convicted of manslaughter. The same thing applies in the case of a man in charge of a steam launch. . . . In this case it is a question of fact. Do you find him guilty of negligence, or was it the action of the people in the sampan that brought about the occurrence? If the sampan was run into as stated in the case for the prosecution I should think she would have been cut, but she simply toppled over. There is no evidence that she was cut down, and there were thirteen people in this small craft.

After some further remarks, His Lordship asked the jury to decide whether the accident was due to the negligence of the prisoner.

The jurors were unanimous in finding a verdict of not guilty.

His Lordship to the prisoner—The jury find you not guilty. They think the whole thing was an accident and due to the sampan people turning into you.

Thursday, 19th January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

MURDER.

Pagan, the Filipino, was indicted for murder. The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted; and Mr. N. Ferrers defended.

The prisoner, in answer to the charge, said:—It is true.

His Lordship—Tell him to plead "not guilty" so that we may find out the degree of his guilt.

Mr. N. G. Nolan, of the Magistracy, interpreted Spanish and English, and Mr. Lazaro Bebit, President of the Igorotte tribe of L-panto Muntoe and chief of 24 Igorottes who returned from the St. Louis World's Fair by the s.s. *Tremont*, Spanish and the Igorotte dialect.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. A. Bain (foreman), W. C. Logan, W. Goetz, L. A. Rose, G. P. Curry, G. Smith and R. S. Piercy.

The Attorney-General said:—As Your Lordship pleases—Gentlemen of the Jury, the prisoner is charged, as you have just heard, with murdering a compatriot, Apowan, under the following circumstances:—Both Apowan and the prisoner were members of a company of 24 Igorottes, people of a native tribe in the Philippine Islands, who had been previously on exhibition in America. At the time of the murder these 24 Igorottes were on their way back to the Philippine Islands from America, and were on the s.s. *Tremont*. The company included a man known as president of the tribe an extremely respectable man who was in charge of the men. On the 5th of this month, in the evening, the *Tremont* was moored in Hongkong Harbour, and there were several cargo lighters lying alongside. At about nine o'clock these Igorottes, apparently, turned in for

the night. A portion of the steamer was provided for their use, with two tiers of bunks all in one compartment. It is rather important for me to tell you where these people were. Here is a rough diagram which was produced at the Magistracy. This man Apowan was in the corner bunk on the left-hand side. As one entered from this passage there were two bunks. The bunk next to Apowan's was the prisoner's, so these two men were sleeping in bunks next to one another. On the right-hand side of the first bunk was the bunk of a woman called Dango Sang, a widow 22 years old, who slept exactly opposite the prisoner. At about half-past nine, some time after these people had turned in for the night, a European quartermaster on watch heard a man shout out as if in pain from the Igorotte quarters. He ran in, and the woman pointed out the deceased, who was not then actually dead, but died a few minutes afterwards. Deceased was practically disembowelled. All the Igorottes were present except the prisoner, who had disappeared. About the same time a Chinese watchman on board one of the lighters alongside saw a short, dark man of a race he had never seen before climb down a rope into the lighter, and this man tried to hide in the lighter's water-tank, and when prevented tried to get into the hold, but was prevented. He then took a plank and jumped overboard. Unfortunately this man did not report the occurrence immediately. A careful search was made in the ship and on shore, and the prisoner was arrested on the following day. I shall prove to you that three days before the murder this woman saw the prisoner take and steal a large knife, a dagger, from another compatriot; and it is very significant that the woman reported the matter to an American in authority and asked him to take the knife from the man. Gentlemen, the prisoner made various statements, and to-day pleads guilty. In the charge room he said "Yes." During the hearing before the Magistrate he said two things, i.e., "I am guilty; I killed," and when a certain weapon was in the doctor's hand, "It is true; I killed him with that knife." He made a full confession since stating what his motive was. I think, gentlemen, when you have heard all this you will agree that the prisoner is justified in pleading guilty.

Charles Peterson, quartermaster of the s.s. *Tremont*, gave evidence.

Cross-examined, he said that the two other men were stabbed. There was no trouble that he knew of before the occurrence.

Dr. Howe, surgeon of the s.s. *Tremont*, gave evidence.

Cross-examined, the Doctor said he attended to all the Igorottes, if they needed him. He knew of no trouble amongst them, prior to the murder.

Re-examined—Dango Sang (the woman) is at present quarantined at Marivelles Bay, Luzon Island, and therefore cannot attend.

The Attorney-General—Under the circumstances I will have to read out Dango Sang's depositions made at the Police Court.

Mr. N. Ferrers objected.

The Attorney-General quoted authority.

Mr. N. Ferrers raised an objection on the ground that, according to the depositions, there had been an error in administering the oath. This discrepancy, however, was a mistake in the copy, but did not appear in the original depositions written by Mr. Gompertz.

Mr. N. Ferrers, again referring to the depositions—I must object, My Lord, on the ground that though it is stated that there has been cross-examination, this does not appear in the depositions—they are not complete.

His Lordship—The cross-examination is not given; I cannot admit incomplete evidence. If I admit these depositions improperly all this trial will be null and void. Send for Mr. Gompertz.

The Chinese lighterman referred to by the Attorney-General gave evidence.

Cross-examined—I could not recognise the man now.

Police Constable 112 gave evidence as to the arrest.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Senior Police Magistrate, on oath—There was no cross-examination. The usual printed form was not altered by me; I overlooked it.

By the Attorney-General—The prisoner was specially asked by me whether he wished to cross-examine, and he did not.

Mr. N. Ferrers—Were the depositions read and translated to the prisoner before he made his statement?

Witness—No, but they were interpreted to him as the witnesses gave evidence. The depositions were read over to each of the witnesses, but not to the prisoner.

There being no further objections the Attorney-General read Dango Sang's evidence, which has already been recorded in the *Daily Press*.

Lazaro Bebit, the Filipino interpreter, sworn, said that no inducement had been held out to the accused to make the statements; they were perfectly voluntary.

N. E. Nolan said:—Yesterday evening at 6.15 I went to the gaol hospital with the last witness, and with him interpreted a statement from the prisoner. He was twice warned that anything he said would be taken against him as evidence. Only the two of us, and the prison warder who opened the gates, were present. The warder did not say anything.

Mr. N. Ferrers—I object to this statement, my Lord. This evidence could not be produced at the Police Court, and therefore cannot be used now. It is sudden, though I admit that the statement was distributed as quickly as possible.

His Lordship—Do you want an adjournment?

The Attorney-General—I cannot oppose an adjournment.

Mr. N. Ferrers—There is another subsequent case which would lead one to suppose that the man was insane.

The statement was read out; it was as follows:—Apowan went into Dango Sang's bed, and I saw him leave. The day after he said "You will not go back to Suwok (home)." I was very much afraid. I could not sleep. Apowan said to me it would be better for me to die first. "If you are not dead you will tell the Americans." I did not sleep for five nights, nor did Apowan. The night after the fifth night Apowan went asleep and I struck him with a knife, and afterwards escaped from the ship.

Lazaro Bebit, cross-examined, said he believed the prisoner to be sane.

Dr. Hunter, in charge of post-mortems, gave evidence. Cross-examined—I know nothing personally about the prisoner.

Dr. Thompson, in charge of the gaol, said:—For some little time I have had the prisoner under observation. I think there is no evidence of insanity. I am of opinion he is sane.

Cross-examined—He has not been suffering from any ailment whatever. He has always spoken rationally, no rambling. I have studied the so-called running amok. Generally speaking it has been found that there has been some cause for it in the beginning.

His Lordship—Running amok means knocking down everyone before you. The evidence is that he went into hiding.

Mr. Ferrers—I am dealing with the murder of the ricksha coolie.

His Lordship—He might have escaped. You can call (how) Fuk.

Dr. Thompson—I do not think that a man who runs amok is necessarily insane.

Mr. N. Ferrers—Yes, he is, if the man commits another murder 24 hours after the first.

His Lordship—I do not think the one very simple fact of two murders with an interval of 24 hours can tell anything.

Chow Fuk, Chinese *lukong* 380, said:—I heard a man shout out for help, a Chinese ricksha coolie. I went to his assistance; he had been stabbed. I proceeded to arrest the prisoner. He resisted and tried to stab me in the chest. He cut my double jacket. I fought with him and we rolled on the ground together. I blew my whistle and European Constable 49 came to my assistance.

Cross-examined—I did not see the defendant strike anyone except the ricksha coolie and myself. I do not know why he struck the ricksha coolie.

Mr. N. Ferrers—What inference did you draw at the Magistracy?

His Lordship—There is no evidence why he killed that man. The jury can draw any conclusion they like. That night he stabbed four people, two of whom died: you can say that to the jury.

Mr. N. Ferrers—All right, my Lord.

Mr. N. Ferrers in addressing the Jury said his duty was to defend a man who did not seem to care to take the trouble to defend himself. He had to satisfy them that the man was innocent or that the circumstances were such that the crime did not amount to one of murder, such circumstances which reduced the crime from murder to manslaughter. If they were not satisfied that the man was in his senses he would be confined as the Crown might think proper; and they must be satisfied that he understood the proceedings which are being carried on. He quoted authority.

His Lordship—There is an interpreter and I have no doubt that he is efficient.

Mr. N. Ferrers—There are two, and I do not think you can be satisfied with the efficiency of both of them together.

Continuing Mr. Ferrers said it did not quite rest there. There was no real evidence except the confessions of the prisoner himself, and his mind was weak. The Crown did not bring forward the man Sondong, who was also wounded.

The Attorney-General—He was at death's door at the time of the trial; he is better now.

Mr. Ferrers continuing said that the jury should disregard the confessions; it was clearly a case of running amok. The reason of the murder was said to be jealousy on the part of the woman, and yet the Crown failed to put the woman into Court and submit her to cross-examination. Since she was not there they were entitled to draw conclusions in favour of the defence. By the confession it was stated that after he had seen Apowan with Dango Sang, Apowan made threats, "You will not go to Suwok." The prisoner was in fear of his life for five days; Apowan tried to put an end to his life.

Mr. Ferrers expatiated on the terrors of those five days, and asked if the provocation was not serious, such, in fact, to reduce the crime from that of murder to manslaughter.

The Attorney-General said that the Crown did not desire to unreasonably press the case against the prisoner, but he submitted that it was not a case of manslaughter. It was as deliberately committed as could be, for reasons of jealousy—not an unusual motive in crimes. The prisoner had been determined to commit the murder for five days. At the expiration of this time Apowan fell asleep, and that was the first opportunity he had of committing the crime.

Other remarks by the Attorney-General were repeated in effect if not in actual words by the Chief Justice in his summing up.

His Lordship said:—Gentlemen of the Jury, the evidence shows deliberate and intentional killing of Apowan by the prisoner, because of the amorous relations of Apowan to Dango Sang, with whom the prisoner was enamoured. A man deliberately killing any man of whose favour with a woman he is jealous is guilty of murder and nothing else unless he can establish that he was irresponsible of the action on account of insanity. If the killing has been deliberate it cannot be manslaughter except in one case, where a husband finds a man in the actual act of adultery with his wife and kills one of them; and even then, if the provocation is not so great that the killing is not done at once, it cannot be regarded as manslaughter. The prisoner was not the husband of Dango Sang, so Apowan had as much right as the prisoner to her affections. She was a "grass widow" and could do as she pleased in that respect. And the killing was not done immediately, not at the time when Apowan was in bed with the woman; it was not done for five days. It was done as an act of revenge with intention, purpose and deliberation, and after a long time planning. In fact, the evidence shows that there was a quarrel between Apowan and the prisoner. Because of this each of these men were trying to get their knife into the other, and the prisoner got his knife in first after a long time; that is not a case of manslaughter. No man can ask a jury to find him guilty of the lesser crime of manslaughter after watching for his chance for five days. It is either murder or homicide, for which the prisoner is responsible. If everyone was to be found not guilty of murder because he was provoked where is the protection of the public to come in? There would be no law or order. There is nothing to lead you to believe that he did not

know that what he was doing was wrong, but on the other hand he made an attempt to escape. If the man was not aware that he had done wrong he would not have attempted to leave the ship at all. Because he stabbed another man that does not show he did not know that he was doing wrong when killing the first man. The evidence is that having satisfied his revenge he was about to make his escape and might have had to remove for that purpose the other Filipino. He tried to hide. He was afraid of being caught because he was afraid of trouble, so he did know the difference between right and wrong. The act to the ricksha coolie shows him to be a dangerous person. The confession he gives is this: "When I came on shore I wanted to get on board again. The Chinese said by and bye." The Chinese said by and bye when he wanted the Chinese to take him in a ricksha, and they would not. I do not think the evidence goes to show that he ran amok, but rather that he is a very dangerous character with an uncommonly free use of his knife. You have heard what Dr. Thompson said. He had him under observation and had conversations with him so as to form an opinion as to whether, at the time he committed the offence, he was in his senses. The Doctor was of opinion that the man was not insane, but madly jealous, and that is not a madness which reduces the crime to one of manslaughter except in the case of a husband who finds his wife in the act of adultery, and then it must have been done immediately. If he sees his wife in an act of adultery, and then because of that adultery chases him round town for a week and then shoots him, that is murder. It is very sad and serious, but whether it is sad or whether it is serious you must find the prisoner innocent or find the prisoner guilty of the act of murder according to the evidence. Gentlemen, consider your verdict.

The Jury were unanimous in returning a verdict of guilty.

His Lordship—Prisoner at the bar, you have been found guilty of deliberate and intentional killing of a man called Apowan, your associate on board the *Tremont*. You have told us the reason which prompted you to act as you did was jealousy. That affords no excuse according to the law of this country. Accordingly you must be punished in the way which all who take life of another without lawful excuse are punished. That penalty is the forfeiture of your life. The sentence upon you therefore is that you will be taken hence to the place whence you came, and thence on a day to be fixed by the Governor to a place of execution, and there you will be hanged by the neck till you are dead, and your body hereafter buried in such place as selected by the Governor, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul.

The prisoner showed an inclination to cry, and was about to speak when an Indian constable took him by the arm and led him away.

Friday, 20th January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE)

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Wong Cheuk Yau and Wong Tin were charged with conspiring to get a Chinaman into Australia, who was not entitled to land in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Calthrop, on behalf of the Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted for the Crown. Mr. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, defended the first prisoner.

The charge abbreviated was as follows:—

(1) That Wong Cheuk Yau and Wong Tin, on the 13th November last, and on divers other days thereafter between that day and the 21st December last, at Victoria (Hongkong) unlawfully, fraudulently, and deceitfully did amongst themselves conspire, confederate and agree together, and with divers other persons unknown to the Attorney-General, by divers false pretences and unlawful and subtle ways, means, stratagems and devices, to deceive the agents of the China Navigation Company, Limited, and divers other liege subjects of Our Lord the King, and to

obtain from such agents by false personation and other false and fraudulent means a passage for one Hau Tin by one of the steamers of the said company to Australia; and in pursuance of the said conspiracy did cause and procure the said Hau Tin to pay a sum of \$50 to him (Wong Cheuk Yau) and did give to the said Hau Tin a receipt in writing for the same, and also did give to the said Hau Tin the letters of naturalization of one Ah Wey as a subject of the Province of South Australia; and in like pursuance of the said conspiracy, confederation, and agreement the said Wong Tin did cause and procure the said Hau Tin to be photographed, and the said Wong Cheuk Yau and Wong Tin in further pursuance of the said conspiracy, confederation, and agreement divers other acts then did, with intent to deceive the said steamship company and divers other liege subjects of Our Lord the King as aforesaid and to procure for the said Hau Tin a passage to Australia in the name of the said Ah Wey by false personation the said Ah Wey, against the peace of Our Lord the King His Crown and Dignity.

(2) That (etc.) with divers other persons to the Attorney-General unknown (etc.) did procure one Hau Tin to endeavour to obtain a passage by a ship to Australia without the consent of the owner, charterer, agent or other person in charge of such ship, contrary to the Stowaways Ordinance, 1903, and in pursuance of the said conspiracy the said Wong Cheuk Yau did cause and procure the said Hau Tin to pay a sum of \$50 to him, and did give the said Hau Tin a receipt in writing for same, and also did give to the said Hau Tin the letters of naturalization of one Ah Wey as a subject of the Province of South Australia, and in like pursuance of the said conspiracy did cause and procure the said Hau Tin to be photographed, and the said Wong Cheuk Yau and Wong Tin in further pursuance of the said conspiracy, confederation, and agreement did divers other acts with intent to procure the said Hau Tin to commit such offence as aforesaid, against the peace of Our Lord the King His Crown and Dignity.

(3) That (etc.) unlawfully did aid, abet, counsel and procure one Hau Tin falsely to personate one Ah Wey with intent to defraud the China Navigation Company, Limited.

(4) That (etc.) unlawfully did aid, abet, counsel and procure one Hau Tin falsely to personate one Ah Wey with intent to deceive divers high subjects of Our Lord the King and against the peace of Our Lord the King His Crown and Dignity.

Mr. Ferrers—I move that this indictment be quashed or at least amended. It is proper for me to do so at this stage before the jury is empanelled. The grounds are not specific and there is uncertainty.

Mr. Calthrop—The first two charges relate to conspiracy to deceive by means of pretences.

His Lordship—You cannot put two such distinct charges.

Mr. Calthrop—Yes, my Lord, we can put anything in an indictment. The two relate to the same act; both are Common Law offences.

Mr. Ferrers—There is another point with reference to this indictment. The fourth count is clearly bad on two grounds. Conspiracy is not an offence unless you have intent to defraud; to deceive is not enough.

His Lordship—Cite authority for it: I am inclined to agree with you. You must charge with intent to defraud. If I go to a fancy dress ball you cannot charge me, though I may intend to deceive the whole community.

Mr. Calthrop—I would point out to Your Lordship that it is an indictment for false pretences.

His Lordship—It must say whom you cheat.

Mr. Calthrop—That is not necessary; it affects the public generally.

His Lordship—The whole thing is so uncertain.

Mr. Ferrers—The person he intended to defraud must be named.

His Lordship—You must strike that clause out.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. L. E. Lammert (foreman), W. C. Logan, H. A. L. Oldenberg, M. Simmons, W. Inglis, J. Mills, and C. Pedersen.

At the request of Mr. Ferrers His Lordship asked if any of the jury were connected with steamship companies.

They were not.

Mr. Calthrop addressed the Court as follows:—

As you are probably aware, the Commonwealth of Australia has passed very stringent regulations as to allowing any aliens to enter the Commonwealth, and persons who go there from here have to prove that they know a certain amount of English, or that they are provided with papers of naturalization. That relates to persons who before the passing of this Act had certificates; they would be readmitted whenever they chose to go back. In consequence of certain acts, one of the witnesses having received certain information from the police went to the house occupied by Wong Cheuk Yau, and while there he saw the second defendant, the first defendant's servant. Wong Cheuk Yau described himself as a broker. Hau Tin went to the second floor and made certain inquiries. He saw the first prisoner, and at the same time the second prisoner. He made enquiries in order to see if he could obtain papers which would enable him to go to Australia. The first defendant promised to supply Hau Tin with the necessary papers to enable him to go into Australia. When he went there Hau Tin paid \$50 to the first defendant, who told him the amount requisite to get the necessary papers was \$850. The man was photographed. The object of getting his photograph taken was that one copy might be sent in advance to Australia to some agent there so that when this man was landing with this certificate of naturalization he might be identified by the person to whom the photograph was sent. Hau Tin then went to this place with Inspector Hanson (Chief Detective-Inspector), who arrested the first defendant and took various papers and documents of naturalization from the safe. There is no doubt that this certificate (produced), which was to have been given to Hau Tin, is the certificate of one Ah Wey, the certificate of a man who was naturalized in Australia. It does not apply to Hau Tin, but was to be given to him in order that he might get taken by the steamship company to Australia. The steamship companies will not issue tickets to anyone who likes to apply. They must be satisfied that he has a right to enter the country. If a shipping company receives a passenger on board who is not entitled to enter the country it renders itself liable to certain penalties, and if he does not escape they must take him back. I think you will be satisfied that there was an endeavour to deceive the steamship company. We have also charged them in connection with the offence they committed with other persons from whom these certificates were originally secured. Who these persons are we do not know, but if you are satisfied there were other persons then you are satisfied there has been some conspiracy with them. The steamship company would not give a ticket to a man not entitled to naturalization papers; it is clear that no steamship company would give a ticket to Hau Tin knowing that he was not the man described in the papers of naturalization.

His Lordship—The Ordinance under which you are charging him applies to stowaways; these men were not stowaways.

Mr. Calthrop—The title of the Ordinance does not bind the Ordinance.

His Lordship—I think what the legislators had in their mind was stowaways.

Mr. Calthrop continuing—Regarding the third count, these two defendants endeavoured to defraud by impersonation knowing that they made the steamship company liable to certain penalties; they would not have taken this man if they knew who he was, even if he did pay. It would render them liable to a fine of £100.

His Lordship—For the purposes of this case we must regard Australia as a foreign government.

Mr. Ferrers—Very foreign, indeed.

His Lordship—When there is a difference in legislation we must always regard such country as foreign.

Hau Tin, the police agent, said:—I am a servant at No. 44, Lyndhurst Terrace. I come from Canton. I have never been to Australia, or been naturalized. I cannot read or write in

any European language. I know the first defendant. On the 13th November I saw him in the dining room of the Chan Hop, No. 151, Connaught Road West. The second defendant, a foki, was also there.

Mr. Ferrers—Call him a coolie.

Witness continuing—We first of all made polite enquiries as to one another's names, and so on. The first defendant asked me to sit down. After that I asked him if there were any papers to the Golden Hills, and he said yes. He asked if I had money, and I said yes. He said he wanted \$850. I agreed to pay him, and he said he would give me an Australian paper to go to the Golden Hills. I paid \$50 on account. For this he gave this receipt, saying I would leave by a China Navigation or other steamer to land at Melbourne.

His Lordship, looking at the naturalization paper—This is a paper of the regime of Sir W. C. F. Robinson, of South Australia, given to one Ah Wey.

Cross-examined—I never had any intention to go to this place, or to go anywhere as a stowaway.

Mr. Calthrop—We are not saying that he intended to go, but we say these two defendants tried to induce him to enter into that country.

His Lordship—He went to induce them; he never wanted to get a passage. This business ought to be stopped if possible, but that does not say that in this case you have a legal offence.

Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson gave evidence. He said that he took from the defendant's safe some bundles of old certificates of naturalization, and on each paper was attached a translation in Chinese.

His Lordship—He was evidently dealing in naturalization papers.

Mr. Ferrers—It proves that the papers were left there by friends for safety. Some were going back, according to the prisoner's statement, and some were not.

Chinese Police Sergeant 137 gave evidence—I know that the Wing Tai used to be kept by Wong Cheuk Yau, the first defendant. He sold foreign goods, and produce from the Golden Hills. He was also a money changer and shoe seller. The first and second floors were used for visitors from the Golden Hills. I knew him in 1894, and he was master of the shop then. He stopped being master in 1903 and I do not know where he went.

D. Abbey, assistant in Messrs Butterfield and Swire's Hongkong office, gave evidence—I am clerk in charge of booking passages. The moment the Australian steamer is on the berth the Chinese broker goes round the market to see what passengers are going to Australia.

His Lordship—Is it a good trade?

Witness—Not so good as it was; it is getting less and less. We examine the passengers' papers allowing them to land in Australia. If a man came with papers of someone else we would not take him on as a passenger. A Chinese passage to Melbourne is \$20; \$235 to Adelaide; and \$285 is the most payable by a Chinese second class passenger going to Australia. If a man not entitled got into Australia we would have to pay a penalty and the ship would be detained.

His Lordship—The first two charges are of conspiracy with intent to defraud.

Mr. Calthrop—Intent to deceive.

His Lordship—There is no such offence, and this was an agreement between these two men to make the China Navigation Company unconsciously do an unlawful act, carrying into Australia a person whose entry was prohibited by that country. There is no evidence of defrauding them; they were prepared to pay the passage money. The word "defraud" must be followed by the word "of"; and of what were they trying to defraud the company?

Mr. Calthrop—In the first two counts the word used is to deceive.

His Lordship—It is not criminal to deceive except to defraud.

Mr. Calthrop—Yes, if it is injurious to the public interests.

His Lordship—What does it matter to the people of Hongkong? It may matter to those in Australia, but it is no offence in this country. What would the company be defrauded of?

Mr. Calthrop—Their right to refuse this man (Laughter.)

Otto King Sing was called.

Mr. Ferrers objected to Mr. Otto King Sing giving an opinion on Australian law. The man was being tried for a breach of the law of Hongkong. Were they going to not only tax an ignorant coolie with not knowing the law of Hongkong, but also of not knowing the law of a place thousands of miles away? Mr. Otto King Sing, furthermore, could not be taken as an authority on Australian law, because the Ordinance in question had come into force since he had left that country.

His Lordship allowed the witness.

Otto King Sing said that he was a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. He had been admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and practised there previous to 1899, when he was admitted as a solicitor in England. He was still qualified to practice in Australia. He knew the Act which came in force in 1901; and had been to Australia in May, 1904. Asiatics were not permitted to land in the Commonwealth, except under special circumstances.

Cross-examined—He did not know why the Sultan of Johore was allowed into the country, and could not say whether a black man who could not speak fifty words of English might go into Australia if he made it pleasant with the officials.

A Chinese interpreter, sworn, read out the first prisoner's statement in which it was said that he had been 22 years in the passenger business.

His Lordship—In order to make this punishable here you will have to legislate for it. If two people at Hongkong conspire to run the customs at San Francisco, could they be indicted at Hongkong?

Mr. Calthrop—Yes, My Lord. It is conspiracy against the public policy, the public interests.

His Lordship—Against the interests of the country at which it is directed.

Mr. Calthrop—In the present case it is against the interests of one of the constituents of the British Empire, and we do not want to get into trouble with another country.

His Lordship—Could a man be indicted in London for conspiring with the so-called nihilists against the Government of Russia? This is purely a domestic regulation in Australia which they passed as they thought, to their interests, and which many other people believe against their interests.

Mr. Calthrop—The act was immoral.

His Lordship—There is nothing very immoral in going to Australia (Laughter).

After reviewing the case briefly His Lordship asked the jury to formally return a verdict of not guilty. He held the view that the prisoners had not on the evidence before the Court been shown to have brought themselves within the criminal law of the Colony of Hongkong.

This was done.

Addressing the prisoners His Lordship said:—You are only technically not guilty. I advise you to stop this practice; it may prove dangerous, but you are discharged now.

Mr. Ferrers—I presume those papers (the rolls of naturalization paper) must be given back?

Mr. Calthrop—I oppose that.

His Lordship—Yes, he could sue you for them otherwise. They belong to him; you must give them back.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

13th January.

THE RIOTING.

There has been more trouble here in the last two days than can be remembered for many years. The people have risen in one of their periodical outbursts against the officials, and lives have been lost.

The history of the affair is as follows: A shoemaker in Sap Pat Po had refused to pay his rent, and his landlord thereupon accused him of allowing lawless characters to live in the house. The authorities arrested the tenant, and lodged him in No. 9 branch police station, thinking, no doubt, that nothing more would be heard of the matter.

But the neighbours—and the shoemakers in particular—were immediately up in arms at the injustice, for the man had been arrested on a charge which was known to be false. A petition was sent in to the authorities begging for the man's release, but was not noticed, and on Thursday morning—the man having been arrested the day before—a mob collected at the prison, stoned the Prefect of Kwongtung, and endeavoured to pull down the prison.

The Namhoi magistrate's soldiers were on the spot in force, and they found it necessary to open fire, killing three and wounding ten more.

All shops in the neighbourhood have been closed, and to-day (Friday) the street gates are again closed—crowds being thus prevented from gathering. Yesterday afternoon on the streets near Sap Pat Po—one of the most important wards of the city—were full of armed soldiers.

At 11.30 last night fire broke out in a match shed near the police station where the prisoner is confined, in a place called San Tin Ti (the reclaimed land). People living in the "back row" on Shameen were disturbed by a tremendous commotion—the banging of drums, clashing of gongs, and shouts from a multitude of people. Those who knew of the morning's riot wondered what mischief was afoot, but it soon appeared that it was only a small fire, whether the work of incendiaries or not.

The Shameen Fire Brigade turned out, but their services were not called for, as the Chinese got the fire under in half-an-hour. Fortunately law and order were preserved, and no further attempt was made to release the prisoner. Further developments are expected.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT:

12th January.

To-day there was a riot and strike among the shopkeepers in Canton, a police station being pulled down by the mob, and so far as I could ascertain three persons killed, and many wounded. The street gates were closed during the day, leaving space just large enough for one person to squeeze through, and soldiers were sent out to guard the streets and to stop the rioting. The origin of it was that a shoemaker's shop, Tak Cheung, in Sap Pat Po street, was owing some rent, and the landlord Chan Chow Tin sent someone to the shop to collect it. Upon the tenant refusing to pay there ensued a quarrel. A policeman by order of the landlord arrested one of the shopmen upon a charge that the shop was harbouring thieves, and took him to the station. The neighbours in the street were not satisfied with the conduct of the police, and they went up to the station to take him out. The police refused to release him, and they stormed the station. The police had a fight with the mob, and in the melee some three or more persons were shot and many wounded. All the shops in the Sap Pat Po and in the neighbouring streets were closed and business stopped. While the prefect of Kwang-chowfu, the magistrates, and some military were attempting to reason with the rioters they were pelted. At 11.30 p.m. the rioters set fire to some houses, and an hour or so was occupied in putting the fire out.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO"]

A serious strike occurred recently in Canton resulting from the dispute of the police tax between the police and some shop-people. The local authorities, taking the boat strike as a precedent, at once did their best to settle the case, otherwise it would be more serious. On the 8th inst. the superintendent of the police force sent some policemen to a shoe-maker's in Sap Pat Po Street demanding the payment of some police-tax which had been in arrear for a long time. One of the foks of that shop had a quarrel with the policemen, and after employing some strong words on both sides, the policemen dragged the foki back to the police station. The master of the shop at once asked the assistance of the Kaifong people and a meeting was held subsequently in a temple. At the second watch of the night they proceeded in a large number to the police station asking the release of the foki. As a dense crowd assembled at the door of the police station, the policemen tried to disperse them with long poles. They did not retire till about twenty of them were wounded, and one being very serious succumbed to the wound a short time afterwards.

The Kaifong people getting more angry at once commenced strike and closed all their shops, and the gates of Sap-Pat-Po Street were also closed, leaving a small space to allow the passage of only one person. The magistrate of Namhoi went personally to see the leading Kaifong people, entreating them to resume business, but to no purpose. The case was made much worse in the evening of the 11th instant, because some policemen wanted to effect the arrest of some people who drank wine and made great noise at the prohibited hour at night in an eating house in San-Tin-ti, which is the favourite resort of bad characters. The bad characters tried to release the captives by force. The policemen were compelled to fire at them and several persons were wounded. A rumour at once spread out in the whole city that the policemen often killed innocent persons. Hearing this the shop people in many streets who had already been enraged by the case of Sap-Pat-Po, were just going to unite together to follow the example of the shop people of Sap-Pat-Po to go on a strike, when the local authorities and leading merchants of the charitable institutions, seeing the gravity of the case, proceeded to them and promised to square the case fairly and justly. Soldiers were immediately despatched to the scene where disturbance occurred to guard the different streets. In the afternoon of the 13th instant the foki of the shoe-maker's shop was liberated and some shops reopened and resumed their business, and in the morning of the 14th instant the strike was over, nearly every shop resuming business as usual.

COMPANIES.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The eighth ordinary annual meeting of this Company was held at the Company's office, St. George's Building, Connaught Road, on the 18th inst. There were present: Hon. Mr. R. Shewan (Chairman), Captain Goddard and Messrs. W. Allen, C. Tomes, W. R. Robertson, H. P. White, Braidwood, J. S. Van Buren, A. Babinston and Fung Wa Chun.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, already published, the CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—Unless you have an objection we will follow the usual course and take the report and accounts now before you as read. The accounts show an improvement of about \$16,000 over the net receipts for last year, but we do not propose to alter the regular annual dividend of eight per cent., preferring to strengthen the reserve fund, which with the proposed addition of \$25,000 will amount to \$80,000. As a reserve fund is no real reserve fund if it is invested in the business of its own Company, and as it has always been our endeavour to specially invest such funds when possible, we have invested ours in two other Companies with the business of which your general managers are intimately acquainted. The China Light & Power Company has been a good client of this Company; it is now doing a good business with excellent prospects of still better business, so shareholders may rest quite easy about this investment, which is in any case not a large one, and as the dividend is guaranteed at 6 per cent. for 1904 and 1905 it is equal to a return of over 6½ per cent. Since we invested in Green Island Cement shares the market has dropped owing to the present scarcity of money for the China New Year, but the prospects of this Company are also excellent, and its business is so good that we think nothing more need be said on that score. We had thus invested more than our reserve fund amounted to at that time, but we did this with a view to the new issue of Green Island Cement shares, and when our proportion is taken up, viz.—675 shares at \$20, bringing down the average cost of those shares to under \$27, we shall then be well within the amount of our reserve fund for this year, viz. \$80,000. Our mortgages require no comment, as under the provident system every year sees them on a firmer footing, and as to our loans, though of course we have to take rather more risk than we should if we did the usual humdrum business at low

rates of interest, there is none gives us the least uneasiness. The China Light & Power Co. is a case in point. We have been very useful to this Company, and it in return has paid us for our assistance what would be considered in an ordinary case almost exorbitant rates of interest. It is the kind of business that a finance company such as this is intended to take up. We are much better able to judge whether it is safe than if we were not intimately connected with both concerns, as we are in this case, and instead of this being a danger to the Provident Company we consider that it is quite the reverse. We could never show net profits of nearly 11 per cent. if we only did ordinary money lending at low rates, but I think that as we have had no bad debts to write off, so far, it is a good indication that we have not been careless in our choice of the risks we have taken.

Mr. VAN BUREN seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. BRADWOOD moved that the retiring members of the consulting committee—Messrs. H. P. White, J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Chan Tung Shang, H. P. White and Dr. J. W. Noble—be re-elected.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Captain GODDARD moved that Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts be re-elected auditors.

Mr. W. ALLEN seconded the motion, which was carried.

HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION CO., LD.

ORDINARY MEETING.

The fourth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Land Reclamation Company, Limited, was held at the Company's office, Victoria Buildings, on the 18th January. The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson (Chairman) presided, and there were also present the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. E. Shellim, R. C. Wilcox and Ho Tung (Directors), Mr. M. S. Northcote (Secretary), and Messrs. Ho Fook, Ho Kom Tong, Shelton Hooper, Lo Cheung Shui, H. N. Mody, J. Orange, A. J. Raymond and H. C. Wilcox.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, we may, I presume, take them as read. The accounts are of so simple a nature as to call for no special comment, but you will note with satisfaction, I am sure, that we have wiped off the debit balance of \$6,219.10 with which we began the year under review, and close with a balance to the good of \$7,157.32, carrying forward, after paying directors' and auditors' fees, the sum of \$4,557.32. As mentioned by your Chairman at the last annual meeting, we are still necessarily passing through the period of expenditure with our reclamation works at Kowloon Point, which, I am pleased to be able to inform you, continues to make steady progress and should reach completion a few months hence. Our houses at Yaumati and the storage ground there are well let and are giving us a good return on the capital invested thereon. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions regarding them you may wish to put.

As there are no questions, I beg to move that the report and accounts as presented be passed.

Mr. J. ORANGE—I beg to second.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. H. C. WILCOX—I beg to propose the re-election of Mr. Ho Tung as a director.

Mr. LO CHEUNG SHUI—I beg to second.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business is to elect a director in place of Mr. R. C. Wilcox, who I am sorry to say is leaving the Colony to-day.

Mr. HO FOOK—I have much pleasure in proposing Mr. A. J. Raymond in place of Mr. Wilcox.

Mr. HO KOM TONG—I beg to second.

Carried.

Mr. A. J. RAYMOND—I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin as auditors.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPEE—I beg to second.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen; thank you for your attendance.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LD.

The shareholders of this Company meet on the 30th inst. The sixteenth report of the board of directors reads as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1904.

The net profits for that period, including \$51,966.63 balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$422,291.44. From this amount an interim dividend of \$6 per share has already been paid. After transferring \$250,000 from equalization of dividend fund to profit and loss account it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$6 per share, maintaining the usual dividend of 12 per cent. per annum on the capital, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$37,875.70 to be carried forward to the credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. J. H. Lewis and C. Michelau having resigned, Messrs. H. P. White and A. Haupt were invited to join the Board in their places, and these appointments now require confirmation.

Messrs. A. Haupt and E. Shellim now retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and C. W. May, who now retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

W. J. GRESSON,
Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

| 31st Dec., 1904. | LIABILITIES. | \$ | c. |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----|
| Capital | | 5,000,000.00 | |
| Equalization of dividend fund | | 250,000.00 | |
| Accounts payable | | 1,528,300.76 | |
| Balance of profit and loss account | | \$672,291.44 | |
| Less interim dividend paid | | 300,000.00 | |
| | | <u>372,291.44</u> | |
| | | \$7,125,122.20 | |

| 31st Dec., 1904. | ASSETS. | \$ | c. |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------|----|
| Cash | | 6,778.17 | |
| Amount advanced on mortgage | | 1,641,753.01 | |
| Amount invested in property | | 5,431,111.12 | |
| Furniture account | | 4,111.79 | |
| Accounts receivable | | 41,368.12 | |
| | | <u>7,125,122.20</u> | |

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

| 31st Dec., 1904. | Dr. | \$ | c. |
|--|-------|-------------------|----|
| To interim dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year | | 300,000.00 | |
| To charges account | | 28,441.19 | |
| To repairs to house property | | 13,289.95 | |
| To advertising | | 94.70 | |
| To fire insurance | | 15,483.73 | |
| To balance to be appropriated as follows:— | | | |
| Directors' fees | | \$ 7,500.00 | |
| Managing directors' fees | | 25,915.74 | |
| Auditors' fees | | 1,000.00 | |
| Final dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year | | 300,000.00 | |
| Balance to be carried to new account | | 37,875.70 | |
| | | <u>372,291.44</u> | |
| | | \$730,452.01 | |

| 1st Jan., 1905. | Cr. | \$ | c. |
|--|-------|---------------------|----|
| By undivided profits, 1904 | | 51,966.63 | |
| By interest on mortgages | | \$148,608.69 | |
| Less—Interest on loans payable | | 94,607.77 | |
| | | <u>53,400.92</u> | |
| By rents | | 273,909.37 | |
| By commission | | 8,38.15 | |
| By scrip fees | | 251.00 | |
| By profit on sales of property | | 91,343.94 | |
| By undivided dividends | | 1,200.00 | |
| By transfer from equalization of dividend fund | | 250,000.00 | |
| | | <u>\$730,452.01</u> | |

THE WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The shareholders of this company meet on the 30th inst. The sixteenth report of the General Agents reads as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—The general agents now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1904.

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to \$41,797.11. From this amount an interim dividend of \$1.50 per share has already been paid, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees, it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$1.70 per share, making a total dividend for the twelve months of \$3.20 per share, and to carry forward the balance of \$1,247.11 to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson having retired, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson has been appointed in his stead, and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. A. J. Raymond retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. C. W. May, who offers himself for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

| 31st Dec., 1904. | LIABILITIES. | \$ | c. |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----|
| Capital | | 625,000.00 | |
| Accounts payable | | 795.87 | |
| Balance of profit and loss account | | \$41,797.11 | |
| Less interim dividend paid | | 18,750.00 | |
| | | <u>23,047.11</u> | |
| | | \$648,842.98 | |

| 31st Dec., 1904. | ASSETS. | \$ | c. |
|------------------|---------|---------------------|----|
| Cost of property | | 611,830.80 | |
| Cash | | 37,012.18 | |
| | | <u>\$648,842.98</u> | |

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

| 31st Dec., 1904. | Dr. | \$ | c. |
|--|-------|------------------|----|
| To fire insurance | | 3,247.75 | |
| Charges | | 565.37 | |
| Crown rent and rates | | 9,042.14 | |
| Repairs to buildings, &c. | | 2,197.50 | |
| Commission to Agents | | 2,128.13 | |
| Interim dividend of \$1.50 for half-year | | 18,750.00 | |
| Balance to be appropriated as follows:— | | | |
| Directors' fees | | \$ 7,500.00 | |
| Auditors' fees | | 50.00 | |
| Dividend of \$1.70 per share | | 21,250.00 | |
| Balance to be carried to new account | | 1,247.11 | |
| | | <u>23,047.11</u> | |
| | | \$58,978.00 | |

| 31st Dec., 1904. | Cr. | \$ | c. |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------|----|
| By Balance brought forward | | 1,362.54 | |
| Rent | | 56,224.14 | |
| Interest | | 1,355.92 | |
| Scrip fees | | 36.00 | |
| | | <u>\$58,978.00</u> | |

WEIHAIWEI GOLD MINING CO., LD.

A meeting of the Weihaiwei Gold Mining Co., Ltd., was held at Shanghai on the 11th inst. to consider the financial position of the Company. Mr. Marcus Wolff was in the chair. The shareholders turned up in force, and the meeting, which was a somewhat stormy one, lasted for nearly two hours. The chairman stated that the Company was practically insolvent. That besides the salaries, etc., due for January, bills amounting to \$6,800 had to be met and the money wherewith to pay them amounted to about \$5,574. The mill manager's report presented to the last meeting had been fairly optimistic, but his subsequent letters were quite the reverse, and he proposed to send a wire giving instructions to shut down the mill and dismiss all hands at once.

This proposition was received with ridicule. The directors were severely taken to task by Messrs. Taylor, Speelman, Sullivan, and Allan,

and they were asked to resign. Numerous propositions were put forward and mooted, but finally the following propositions were put to the meeting by various shareholders and carried:—Firstly, that Mr. A. Moller should be sent up to the mine to make a close investigation of the working, his expenses being paid by the shareholders; second, that a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Allan, McMurtrie, and Moller should examine and report on the accounts; third, that no further steps with regard to closing the mine should be taken by the directors without first consulting the shareholders; and fourth, that an advertisement should be put in the papers calling a meeting of shareholders to reconstruct the Company and elect new directors. The summary dismissal of Mr. Dawson by the Board called forth severe comment from several shareholders, who considered that his services had been dispensed with merely because he gave an honest opinion of the condition of affairs at the mine.

SHELL TRANSPORT AND TRADING CO. (LIMITED.)

The report and accounts of the Shell Transport and Trading Company (Limited) for the year ending December 31, 1903, are in the hands of shareholders. The figures for the year 1902 were assessed in the report of September 9, 1904, as over-estimated to the extent of £11,296 19s. 8d. All differences in the accounts of that year have been merged in the accounts now presented as for 1903, the profits of which are diminished to the extent that those of 1902 benefited. Including the amount brought forward from 1902, there stands to the credit of profit and loss £339,330 7s. 4d. After deduction of management expenses and directors' and auditors' fees, £21,850; dividend on Preference shares, £50,000 income-tax, £12,031 18s. 2d.; the sum of £84,095 10s. 5d. as a provision for depreciation on steamers and installations, writing £10,000 from the cost and expenses of the Preference shares issue, and writing £2,500 from American expenses, there remains to be carried forward to the balance-sheet the amount of £158,852 18s. 9d. After providing for the dividend paid on January 1 of 1904, there remains to be carried forward the sum of £58,852 18s. 9d. These are the salient points of the documents.

SCHOOL REPORT.

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE SPEECH DAY.

At St. Stephen's College on the 18th inst. His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan distributed the prizes to successful students. There was a large and representative gathering present, and a guard of honour was formed by the students, who were lined up on each side of the walk to the College as His Excellency approached.

The Head (REV. E. J. BARNETT) in his address said:—It may be questioned whether the influence of education in Hongkong will not be mainly, if not wholly, local; whether those who are trained in our Colleges will ever affect appreciably the mainland adjacent. That most of those who come to learn English are actuated by personal motives must perhaps be conceded. But here, nevertheless, is the teacher's opportunity; for as the children in the home lands are taught to respond to the enthusiasm of Imperialism, so may the claims of China be brought home to Chinese students while studying the condition and needs of their native land in the light of the history of our Empire. Some of these senior lads have devoted themselves to the study of History with a relish which has surprised us. Parallels between certain conditions obtaining at the present time in China and those which existed in England, say, in John's reign and later, are readily appreciated, and deductions are soon drawn. For why should not the benefits which Magna Carta secured for England be enjoyed by China if she too obtained her Charter of Liberties? Thus through this and kindred studies the needs of China become more apparent, and when the need has been located the remedy is nearer accomplishment. Further, Hongkong is Europe's door into China, and a distributing

centre whose influence penetrates into the heart of the Empire. Hongkong, moreover, as a British Colony, is an object lesson of good government where the rights of man in relation to man are maintained, where justice is administered and oppression disallowed. In some measure, therefore, this ancient, immovable kingdom is being interpenetrated with new forces which make for change and the betterment of the people. Yet again, some of our students have official connections on the mainland: some belong to the expectant class of degree men; others hail from the coast ports, while all are more or less associated with ancestral homes in China proper. In these ways the sphere of influence is widened, and we believe the result of our labours will extend beyond the narrow limits of Hongkong. Our tried friends and fellow-helpers remained with us—Mr. J. Lewis Byrne, M.A., in charge of much of the senior work, Mr. A. H. Mackenzie, and Miss Fletcher, who kindly devoted the whole of her time to her class. Even so, we lacked the numbers necessary to carry out our principle—that each class should have its own English Form-master. In the early part of the year we were fortunate in obtaining the assistance of Mr. E. P. Burt, a trained teacher, and when other duties called him away the services of Mr. Ray were secured, who has entered with enthusiasm into the boys' sports. Mr. Landemann, who holds a teacher's certificate, has lately joined us, and we expect to have the benefit of his help after the New Year. The Chinese classes have continued under the careful instruction of Mr. Ng Tin Po, assisted recently by Mr. Lo Siu Kei.

HIS EXCELLENCY was then called upon, and distributed the prizes.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY, having performed this duty, said:—My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen,—You will, I am sure, join with me in thanking Mr. Barnett for his interesting report. In its political anticipations I have no intention of following him, nor can I follow the parallel of England emerging from barbarism in the 13th century A.D. and China to-day after a civilization which we know goes back to the 13th century B.C. But I do understand and applaud the statement in the report that the first aim of the College is to inculcate upon the individual the methods of right living. On the last occasion on which I had the honour to present prizes at one of the schools of this Colony I divided the purposes of these schools into 'Training the Children' and 'Educating the Mind.' On this occasion another sub-division suggest itself, viz., that of storing the mind and forming the reason. Both ideas are followed in every system of education, but in varying degrees. The former method usually consists of teaching the works of ancient writers first largely by rote and afterwards by explaining their meaning. In the latter method science and logic play the foremost part and teach the deduction of one fact from another and of generalisation from instance. Roughly speaking, the first method tends to make men conservative, cultured, and courteous, and the second to make them liberal, learned, and likely to get on in the world. The first method overwhelmingly predominates in the system of education in China and formerly entered largely into the curriculum of our large English public schools. The second method is that to which modern Western education is rapidly tending, and is probably at present more closely followed in Germany than elsewhere. The problem which this College is trying to solve is how to combine the two methods in the way best adapted to secure the highest happiness to the rising generation of China in this corner of the British Empire and in the adjoining Empire of China; how to add so much liberalism to the natural Chinese conservatism as will tend to steady progress without producing a generation of rash reformers or reckless enterprisers; how to combine so much learning with the Chinese culture as will make the lessons of science practically available for the improvement of the physical conditions of life; and how to place scholars in the best position to get on in the world, without selfishness nor too high a consideration of the material advantages of wealth, rank, and position. That that

solution of the problem is in the opinion of our Chinese friends being carried out on the right lines is best testified by the support they are giving to the institution. I am sure that we all join in wishing the College in the future the greatest success. (Applause).

His Lordship, the Rev. Bishop HOARE, said: I am sure I am only expressing the feelings of all present when I thank Your Excellency heartily for coming here this morning, and for what you have been saying to us about the work of the College and education generally.

We have a large Government system of education in the Colony, but of course schools that are regulated by Government must be regulated for the masses, and it is always rather a problem as to what are the best lines to regulate schools in a place like this. The College has a free hand—I do not mean to say the Government hampers educational work in other colleges, but they have to lay down certain rules and conditions—and Chinese opinion has very great weight, and it is a very great satisfaction to my mind to see that it goes very much with the results of the experience of the Government, and after all, this College is being run on very much the same lines as other schools where the Government lays down the rules. It is a mistake, even here, where we get people of very mixed religions, to think that they wish religious teachings excluded from the schools. I am sure that the Chinese both here and on the mainland, prefer that a religion should be taught, even though it be not their own. His Lordship then asked the boys to show by acclamation that they heartily thanked His Excellency for coming to give away the prizes. This they did by three ringing cheers, following with three for His Lordship the Bishop and three for the Rev. Mr. Barnett.

ELLIS KADOORIE CHINESE SCHOOLS SOCIETY.

The prizes awarded to successful students were presented by H. E. the Governor at this College on the 20th inst., when there was a large attendance of parents and friends of the young collegians.

After several of the students had recited, the Head Master (Mr. W. D. BRAIDWOOD), in presenting the fourth annual report of the Society's Hongkong College, said that on the 30th June last, the college completed its first year under the Government Grant-in-aid scheme. The amount of grant earned was \$3,112, being an average of \$16.74 per head calculated on the average attendance. In teaching elementary science they were considerably handicapped during the year by the want of suitable apparatus. This deficiency had now been rectified by the purchase of two cabinets of objects and apparatus for the teaching of elementary science and Nature knowledge, so that they were now able to illustrate the lessons by means of simple experiments. In 1902 the Committee of Education in Hongkong having examined the course of study prescribed for the Oxford Local examination, decided that "too much time was spent in the acquisition of dry facts relating to Early and Mediaeval English history and to the geography of countries which are only remotely connected with the Far East." The wisdom of this decision must be recognised by all who take an interest in education and educational methods. As a result of this declaration a committee appointed for the purpose drew up last year a scheme for a four years' course in those two subjects in which an examination will be held annually by the Oxford Delegates and certificates awarded by the Hongkong Government. They welcomed this change, and adopted it as a decided advance. The pass in science was the same as in 1903 (79 per cent), but with the apparatus already referred to they hoped to have better results during the current year. The Head, continuing, said: Following a precedent of my own in connection with another school in the Colony, I resolved to establish a circulating school library to foster the desire for reading among the pupils. The boys in the senior forms showed such enthusiasm in the matter that with their assistance I was able in a very short time to raise the sum of \$421. The result is that we

have now a library of 260 volumes of bright, interesting, and above all pure literature, which cannot but prove an undoubted blessing to present and future students. I here take the opportunity of expressing my deep thanks to those gentlemen who so readily and generously contributed towards this good object. At the last prize distribution I was able to announce that through the generosity of the Chinese community the College had received a Blake Scholarship of the value of \$50 per annum. On the present occasion I have to place on record the liberality of Mr. Ho Kom Tong, who has kindly presented two scholarships—a senior and a junior. These scholarships are of the value of \$35 and \$25 per annum respectively, and are to be competed for yearly in Forms II. and IV., preference being given to the student making the highest number of marks in English reading, composition and colloquial and in translation from Chinese to English. The hearty thanks of the Council and all connected with the College are hereby tendered to the donor for his generous gift. Last year I had to complain of the irregularity in attendance, and the council in an effort to remedy this offered certain inducements to regularity by the remission of fees to those students who made the necessary number of attendances. This offer has resulted in 14 boys making the maximum number of attendances, viz. 237, while 46 have been present on 215 or more days. The average attendance for the Government year ending 30th June, 1904 was 185.88; for the succeeding six months it has been 222.21. It will thus be seen that the experiment has met with a considerable amount of success. After presentation of the long list of prizes followed

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY said: Ladies and Gentlemen—The most agreeable way of carrying out the duty which now devolves upon me would be to dwell upon the eulogising parts of the reports of the Head Master and Inspector of Schools. I shall, however, satisfy myself with the less agreeable, but possibly more useful method of making a few remarks on a subject in which the scholars have proved themselves to be less proficient. It is difficult to understand why the study of geography should not be attractive to the boys of the Ellis Kadoorie School. In a village away up in the interior of China, which has very little connection with the outer world, it is natural that small interest should be taken in names of countries hardly ever heard of. But here in Hongkong every boy has under his eyes the ships that come from every quarter of the globe across many seas, and bring their produce from many lands, and it would only be expected that the boys would want to know about those seas and lands. One day a ship leaves port to take labourers to South Africa; another day a ship brings from Australia immigrants who years ago went away. One day a steamer of the Empress line arrives from over the Pacific, bringing mails from the great American continent; another day arrives the German or English mail traversing the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Red Sea, Indian and Pacific Oceans, bringing machinery and manufactured goods from Europe, tea and silk from China, sugar from the Philippines, coal from Japan, gold from New South Wales, and numerous other products. The imagination of every boy must naturally be excited to follow these ships in their long journeys to their distant destinations, and to dwell on the conditions of life in these far away countries. Apart also from the interest in the study of geography, the importance of that study can hardly be exaggerated. The official has to know minutely the conditions of the district, province or country in which he works; the merchant must know of lands where he hopes to find market for his goods, and also the seas which have to be traversed to reach these markets. Geography is a science of the first importance to the merchant, and even the clerk must have sufficient knowledge to prevent him sending a letter to Australia which should go to Austria. In the study of natural sciences a knowledge of geography is required; the history of past ages which is so necessary for comprehension of the politics of the present day involves a necessary knowledge of geography, and such knowledge is also required for journalism and many other important vocations. While

a knowledge of geography makes many books interesting which would be otherwise only slightly so, there are many books which teach geography itself to some degree. I have one here which describes the journey of the Prince of Wales to various parts of the empire, and I propose to close my remarks by presenting it to the boy (Lau Yu Chan) whom the Head Master points out to me as having the best geographical knowledge, and who has therefore best earned it.

Mr. BRAIDWOOD said: Your Excellency,—Your presence here this morning in spite of the multiplicity and importance of your many engagements is abundant evidence of the importance which you attach to education, which influences life in this Colony. Your interest in the work of the students is a source of satisfaction to the teachers, and your approval encourages them in the arduous duties of a trying profession—duties which your Excellency will consider *nulli secundus*. It is no small gratification to the scholars to receive from the King's representative their prizes, and to hear your remarks with regard to geography. In the name and on behalf of the President, members of the Council, teachers' staff and students, I beg to convey to you our sincere appreciation of Your Excellency's kindness in coming here to-day.

The proceedings terminated with cheers for H.E. the Governor, the ladies and gentlemen present, the Headmaster and the staff.

UNLAWFUL LANDING OF ARMS.

The rehearing of the case in which Messrs. Lutgens, Einstmann and Company, were fined \$1,000 for the landing of arms without a permit came on before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on the 19th January.

Paul Remedios, clerk in the employ of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. gave evidence that Mr. Herbst of the defendant firm brought the bill of lading endorsed to him and he countersigned it on behalf of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.

A Chinese tallyman of the Kowloon Godown Company gave evidence as to the landing of this case of arms on the 27th December last and placing it in the godown.

Detective Sgt. Grant deposed to opening the case in the godown and finding it to contain 12 American Enfield rifles. The defendant firm had no licence. The removal permit was issued to Messrs. Arnhold Karberg & Co., who held a licence.

E. R. Hallifax, Deputy Superintendent of Police, said that in March of last year the defendant firm's licence for dealing in arms was cancelled by the Captain Superintendent of Police, and that the licence ceased to operate on June of that year. Since that time they had been without a licence.

Carl Herbst, clerk, in the employ of the defendant firm, deposed to receiving instructions from the manager to get the bill of lading endorsed by Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co. and to hand it to Messrs. Arnhold Karberg & Co. to get the case landed and stored to their order.

Replying to Mr. Hallifax, witness said this was not the first time within the last six months that he had done a similar thing; he had had to do with the removal of arms on several occasions for the firm.

Mr. F. Lieb, an assistant of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Company, gave evidence that he received the bill of lading endorsed by the defendant firm, which he sent to the godown people requesting them to take delivery of the case from the steamer to the godowns, and to hold it there to the account of his firm. His firm did not buy the arms, they did not pay anything for them, and they were not paid anything by the defendant firm for landing them. The bill for landing charges was made out in the name of his firm, and presented to them by the godown company, and he believed it was paid by his firm. Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Company dealt in arms, and had a licence to do so, and after receipt of the goods into the godowns he returned the permit for removing the goods to the police.

Mr. Boissereé, manager of the defendant firm, stated that he received a letter from the firm of Messrs. Brinkmann and Co., of Singa-

pore, stating that they were sending to his firm one case of American Enfield rifles. He had not ordered them, and had had no previous correspondence on the subject. They were sent without his authority, and he knew nothing whatever about the case.

Mr. Gedze (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master's office), who represented the defendant firm, said the matter seemed to be a very simple one. According to the Ordinance, to import arms they must be landed, otherwise they were not imported. There was no evidence to show that the defendant firm had landed these arms. If anybody imported them it was the firm of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Company, and that firm had a licence and a permit to remove and land arms.

His Worship held that it was necessary to prove the consigning and landing of the goods. This was proved in evidence, and he held that the defendant firm had landed or brought about the landing of these goods, also that they were consigned to the defendant firm. Therefore he would uphold his previous conviction in which he fined the defendants \$1,000.

CHINESE THERAPEUTICS.

The following typical bits of native therapeutic lore were quoted by a lady doctor at Soochow recently.

Malaria: During the sleep of exhaustion which follows a chill, a cure is effected if a parent or near relative will slip quietly up to an unlocked box or door and suddenly lock it; thus the evil spirit is locked within, and the patient saved.

Cause of hydrophobia: To prevent hunger at the beginning of hibernation, all snakes fill their mouths with a pellet of mud, which is ejected when the winter is over; if by chance this dainty morsel be swallowed by a dog, hydrophobia results.

Hæmorrhage: The blood of a white duck killed at the patient's bedside and drunk hot will cure any hæmorrhage.

To extract a tooth: Cook well the bones of a rat, pulverise, and apply to tooth. If it is foreordained that the tooth is to come out this will bring it; if not it will become more firmly fixed than ever. This was the favourite prescription of the great celebrity, Mo Bet-ze, who was at one time physician to the Emperor, and who lately died at his home in Soochow. Another popular remedy is to remove the entrails of a fish, fill the abdominal cavity with arsenical acid, hang in a cool place, and wait for the fins to turn white; then scrape from the fins the small white excrescence, dry, pulverise, mix with aromatic powder, make a paste, and apply to tooth. This ensures a painless and speedy delivery of the tooth.

How to diagnose anthrax: Have your patient eat a raw yellow bean; if the disease is anthrax it will taste as if well cooked; if it is not anthrax, the taste will be that of the raw yellow bean.

Cholera: Over the umbilicus place a plash composed of musk, brimstone, red iodide of mercury, pulverised lilipedis, the secretia from the skin of a toad's head, dried rhinoceros' stomach, heated, dried, and pulverised. Another remedy is the chewing up of cash, of which you have all heard, and which I have seen. It is said that a fairy gave this remedy to a Taoist priest; and it is wonderful both as to their ability to masticate the cash and the results.

I have been told that we might double our practice if we would only take the trouble to write our prescriptions as the Chinese do. The following is a prescription for an advanced case of facial osteo sarcana. The writer Wang Zing-kyah is a physician of high repute:—

"The patient is troubled with heat and phlegm. The heat causes profuse expectoration. Because of this the gums are swollen and red on the right side especially. The face is swollen and tense. Pulse slippery. There is nasal discharge. In this disease if heat reducing medicines are used the patient will grow worse; if diaphoretics are used the swelling will increase. Therefore we will first reduce the heat of the lung and stomach, for which I prescribe: Biba leaves, incense, tender bamboo skin, dish rag gourd, sheeps' horn, frosted leaves, and glycerinza." He only saw the case once.

One of the methods of punishment inflicted upon an unfortunate physician, who has mis-

taken his prognosis, so that instead of the promised recovery the patient has entered the region of the great unknown, is, to say the least, unnerving to the one on whom it is practised. A messenger again seeks the doctor, and with honeyed words and smiling countenance says, "Your prognosis was correct; come and see for yourself how well she is." And all unconscious of the horror before him he goes and is led upstairs to the patient's room, the curtain drawn, and he confronts his mistake. Only a few weeks ago this happened, and when the terrified physician would have fled, behold! the steps were drawn and he was a prisoner; freed only when he had written for the family of the deceased a cheque for £1s. 300. They say this happens frequently, and I feel quite sure that it is because of such cases as these that the custom has been established of making the worst possible prognosis, whereby nothing is lost if the patient dies, and everything gained if she lives—face saved and reputation earned. It is only one among many of the tricks of the trade, the outcome of the fear which the practitioners have of their own people.

CHINESE MANNERS.

The *N.-C. Daily News* remarks editorially:—Under the head of "Manners and Customs" it was said of some savage tribe, "manners they have none and their customs are beastly." Whether the Chinese rank as civilised, semi-civilised, or semi-barbarous is largely a matter of definition, but in any case it cannot be said of them, "Manners they have none." Those who know best might rather complain that they have too many. The average English boy hates to take off his cap in greeting you, and does it awkwardly; the average American boy is apt to keep his on even when he enters a room; but no Chinese schoolboy fails to greet his teacher with proper ceremony, formal but not awkward. Foreign schoolboys, on their return to school do not show much interest in the state of health of their companions' parents; but among Chinese students and schoolboys there are always formal enquiries after the "peace at home" and as to "peace upon the road."

When differing civilisations meet there cannot fail to be a good many misunderstandings on both sides. Our manners are not only less formal and tiresome than those of the Chinese, but they are very different in character, being the outcome of a different civilisation in a different environment: the two systems are "incommensurables." It is therefore not to be wondered at if the Chinese think we are mannerless and impolite. It has happened for example that a foreigner riding in China has been deliberately misdirected by the peasant of whom he asked the road. Chinese manners required that before enquiring the rider should alight, and the peasant answers impoliteness with impoliteness. The foreigner rides some miles out of his way, and ever after treasures his experience as a proof of the boorish hatred of the Chinese to the foreign devil. Misunderstandings of this kind take place every day. Not every foreigner, any more than every Chinese, can recognise the actual politeness which may very well exist under a breach of formal manners.

The foreigner's insolent disregard of Chinese conventionalities has sometimes an unfortunate result on those natives who are intimate with him,—they also learn to leave off being polite according to the native code, and, needless to say, they do not acquire instead the ease of foreign manners. We have seen the missionary's wife shaking hands with her neighbour's table-boy—which will cause a few discerning readers to shudder; we have seen the foreigner dining with the mandarin, who did not know enough to cap "your honourable" with "my unworthy,"—who proffered tea with one hand while the other was in his pocket, who emphasised his "thou, thou, thou," with flourishes of a table-knife before the great man's astonished spectacles. Worse still, we have known schools where manners became disintegrated because the foreign teacher knew no Chinese civilities and the pupils naturally learnt no Western manners; with the result that after years of schooling they enter the world unpleasant, ungracious, uncouth to native and foreigner alike. Hostility we may often make allowance for, but over

familiarity or lack of polish is hardly less offensive, and is often a mark of those who have been educated under foreign teachers. The Chinese do not require that we should teach formal politeness—they could rather be our instructors; but they do require that we should impress on them the value of good manners, whether native or foreign; in schools especially it should be looked to that good Chinese manners should be encouraged and that laxity or awkward imitations of the freedom of foreign manners should be checked.

CLOSING OF AN OLD FIRM.

DEPARTURE OF MR. E. C. WILCOX.

With the departure of Mr. R. Chatterton Wilcox from the Colony on Jan. 18 for England, we have to record the closing of the firm of Messrs. Turner & Co., one of the oldest firms in the Colony, with which Mr. Wilcox has been identified during the past four years. The exact date of the foundation of the firm is not known, there being no clear record, but Mr. Richard Turner, founder of the firm, was in business in Macao in 1828. He subsequently traded at Canton as Turner & Co., and the firm was one of the first batch that migrated to Hongkong on the invitation of Captain Elliott, the Superintendent of Trade, in 1839. The firm prospered and had branches at Shanghai and Foochow. When Mr. Turner's connection ceased, some time in the early 'sixties, we believe, Mr. Phineas Ryrie became head of the firm, and many still resident in the Colony will remember Mr. Ryrie as for many years the senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council, and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ryrie died in 1892, and thereafter the firm passed into the hands of Mr. A. W. Walkinshaw, who remained at Foochow, leaving the Hongkong house in charge of the late Mr. James H. Cox. Mr. Wilcox purchased the business in 1900, and carried it on till the close of 1904, when, anxious to retire, and failing to find a purchaser for the business, he decided to close the firm and the bulk of its business was transferred to Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. The firm, it may be mentioned, had held the agency of the Northern Assurance Co. for exactly fifty years.

Mr. Wilcox arrived in Hongkong on January 8th, 1875, coming out from England as Editor of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, in which capacity he remained, with credit alike to the paper and himself, for fifteen years, during a large part of which time he was also lessee of the business. In those days, as a glance at the old files will reveal, the community was less contented and peaceably inclined than it is to-day. During the term of Sir John Pope Hennessy's governorship the popular dissatisfaction with the Governor's policy was exceedingly pronounced, and was faithfully reflected in the leader column of the *Hongkong Daily Press*. This antagonism of the community to the Governor lasted throughout His Excellency's term of service, and looking back over the files one might easily suppose that Sir John Pope Hennessy would entertain no kind regards for the Editor of the *Daily Press*. But it is interesting to record that before His Excellency left the Colony he invited Mr. Wilcox to meet him for the express purpose of making known to him his appreciation of the high tone of his criticism and its complete freedom from anything in the nature of personal attack—a compliment which was certainly deserved and duly appreciated.

After fifteen years of journalism Mr. Wilcox sought a change of occupation. He went into the house and estate agency business, and shortly afterwards was appointed as Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, into which institution he infused new life and considerably increased its membership. Any movement calculated to benefit the trade of the Colony always found in him a warm supporter. In 1897 he acted as secretary to the Committee formed to inquire into the trade of the port, and subsequently served on the Commission appointed to inquire into the advisability of the registration of chair and jinrikisha coolies, but the recommendation of the Commission was, unhappily for the public, not approved by the Government. On resigning the secretaryship of the Chamber of Commerce to take over the

business of Turner & Co., Mr. Wilcox was appointed a member of the Committee, and up to the time of his departure continued to take the closest interest in its affairs. In addition Mr. Wilcox has rendered useful service as Chairman of the local branch of the China Association for the past year and a half, and also as a member of the Navy League Committee, not to mention his services as director of several public companies.

Mr. Wilcox, accompanied by Mrs. Wilcox and Mr. Harold Wilcox left by the *Namsang* yesterday for Calcutta, intending to spend about a month in India before proceeding to England. In wishing him *bon voyage* and many years to enjoy at Home the repose which thirty years of activity in Hongkong may be considered to earn, we echo the wishes of a very wide circle of friends by whom Mr. Wilcox and his family are held in the highest esteem.

STEAMER UNDER ARREST.

ALLEGED CONTRABAND CARGO.

The steamer *Tung Chow* was arrested in the harbour, under warrant, by Inspector Langley yesterday morning, with some two hundred and fifty tons of ammunition on board, which was not on the ship's manifest. The ship, it is alleged, was cruising between Hongkong and Saigon, awaiting the arrival of the Russian fleet.

CAPTAIN BEFORE THE COURT.

Captain Parkes, master of the *Tung Chow*, was charged before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court yesterday afternoon with failing, on arrival, to furnish to the Harbour Master a manifest of such ammunition. Mr. Jones of the Harbour Office prosecuted.

The Captain admitted the charge, and said he had no manifest.

His Worship: What was the quantity of ammunition on board?

Mr. Jones: By the Master's words, 250 tons. No notification of the cargo carried was given before I went on board, which was immediately after she dropped anchor, when the Master gave me the information.

His Worship: I do not understand the meaning of the charge if he gave you the information.

Mr. Jones: A manifest must be furnished, and when the Master enters the vessel at the Harbour Office, he must hand same in. If the Master intended to furnish a manifest he could not have done so before I went on board. A manifest for such cargo is generally, but not always, forwarded from the last port of call. The Master, in this case, is not provided with a manifest.

The Captain said it was not intended that the ammunition was to appear in Hongkong. He came into port as it was an absolute necessity that he should get coal and water.

His Worship: I must inflict the full penalty, as the amount of ammunition you have on board is a very large one. You are fined \$250.

KWANGSI'S EX-GOVERNOR.

The cashiered ex-Governor of Kwangsi province, Shih Nien-tsu, has been granted by decree dated the 7th inst. the rank of a Taotai and ordered to report for duty with Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, at Wuchang. This, the *N.-C. Daily News* is informed by a Peking correspondent, has been the result of a judicious manipulation amongst the principal eunuchs of the Imperial Palaces of the ill-gotten gains for the obtaining of which the ex-Governor had been cashiered in October, 1897, accentuated, as it were, by the laying of costly "tribute" at the feet of the Empress Dowager in November last, when her Imperial Majesty was celebrating her seventieth birthday anniversary and in a sufficiently genial state of mind to be at peace with all men. The following, in a few words, is an outline of the official career of ex-Governor Shih Nien-tsu, who is a native of this province and holds the literary degree of M.A., or Chüjen:—Appointed Taotai of Lanchow, capital of Kansu province, 1872; promoted Provincial Judge of same, 1877; retired into mourning, 1881; appointed Provincial Judge of Yunnan, 1884; promoted Provincial Treasurer of Kweichow, 1887; transferred to similar post

in Yunnan, 1889; and promoted Governor of Kuangsi province 1895, from which post he was cashiered in October 1897 and dismissed the service for misappropriation of public funds and general incapacity of conduct, thereby causing discontent and insurrection amongst the inhabitants of that province which has continued to the present day. The restoration to the public service of a man like Shih Nien-tsu is a sufficiently clear proof of the corruption in the capital and the power and influence of the eunuchs over the Empress Dowager.

CHINESE MATRIMONIAL METHODS.

Inspector Robinson's case, wherein five Chinese three men and two women—were charged with assaulting Chung Kung Kui and a Chinese woman named Cheng Fung in consequence of the latter's alleged conjugal unfaithfulness, was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on the 14th instant. After the hearing of further evidence, His Worship said it was clear that the first complainant had had a very bad beating, in which probably several people had helped. No doubt Chung Kung Kui deserved all he got, but at the same time His Worship wished to inform the defendant that what they did was a serious breach of the peace; had the man died under their hands, or suffered seriously, they would have been in a very unpleasant position indeed. However, taking into consideration the provocation, he would fine the first and second defendant's \$10 each. He would further severely caution the whole of the defendants, and bind them over to keep the peace for six months in a personal bond of \$200 each.

JAPANESE STOWAWAYS.

A case in which the captain of the s.s. *Macquarie* charged fourteen Japanese with stowing away at the port of Moji was heard on 17th January.

George Richard Wardle deposed: I am chief steward of the s.s. *Macquarie*. I collect all passenger tickets on board. If any person applied to me for a passage I would first have to report to the Captain. Subject to his permission, I would issue a ticket. None of the persons charged came on with my permission or cognizance. They had no understanding with me. To my knowledge no money has been received by anybody on the ship for their passages.

By the Court: When found, the captain ordered me to supply them with food.

St. John George recalled: The fourteenth defendant was found in the quartermaster's cabin the day after leaving Moji. She was not on board with my knowledge or authority.

On the defendants being asked what they had to say, the tenth, who acted as spokesman, said: We got on board at Moji with the consent of the chief officer and the chief steward. We promised to pay them yen 350 after landing at Hongkong. One of the defendants named Akama was to come ashore, get the money, and pay all the passages. The remainder of the defendants, with the exception of No. 14, who had nothing to say, confirmed this statement.

His Worship: If on board with the cognizance of the chief officer and chief steward, how were you found in the linen locker and other places of hiding on board?

The defendants' spokesman said they were all in one cabin.

The master of the *Macquarie* informed His Worship that the stowaways threatened to implicate the chief officer and chief steward on arrival here, if they did not get their liberty on board, consequently they were put in the one cabin. He did not think for one moment that the chief officer or chief steward would do such a thing.

His Worship, to the defendants: It is quite clear that you were on board without the consent or authority of any of the ship's officers, and if you had continued in hiding, and landed with a contagious disease, the master would have been liable. The four male defendants will each be fined \$250, or the alternative of three months' imprisonment; the females, with the exception of the fourteenth defendant, will each be fined \$50 or one month; the fourteenth

defendant, who is claimed by the quartermaster as his wife, is fined \$25.

The quartermaster of the ship, together with four of the boys, were charged with aiding and abetting the stowaways. With regard to the boys, both the captain and chief officer spoke as their previous good conduct, and asked His Worship to deal leniently with them.

His Worship fined the first defendant \$15; the second, who was represented by Mr. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), he discharged; the remainder had been given good characters, and he had been asked to deal leniently with them, but he thought he ought to take into consideration that he had inflicted heavy sentences on some of the stowaways; besides, the boys tried to clear themselves by allowing the blame to fall on some of the ship's officers, and for any officer of a British ship to be concerned in a thing of that sort would be a very serious matter. The third and fourth defendants would be fined \$100, in default three months' imprisonment, and the fifth defendant would be fined \$150.

INVASION OF SHANGHAI.

The following letter, to our Shanghai contemporary, explains itself:—

SIR,—It would seem that the best interests of the allied Settlements here would demand a short, sharp protest against the proposed invasion of Shanghai by the refugees from Port Arthur. If the statements furnished to the Press recently to the effect that they will be coming here by the thousands is correct, it would be almost impossible to magnify the danger and discomfort that must ensue here. Port Arthur is not riously full of scurvy, dysentery and small-pox, to say nothing of typhoid, and the throwing down of a mass of disease of this character in the midst of our Settlement, in the present condition of public health, is only inviting disaster.

I am not prepared to say who should make this protest or whose duty it is to take the step, but the delay of invoking a ratepayers' meeting would be so great as to make it ineffective. It may be that the Consular Body have the power, and it may be that only an appeal can lie to the Russian and Japanese authorities.

It seems beyond question that the repatriation of these refugees by way of neutral territory is an abuse of the privilege of extra-territoriality that would not be permitted by any other country, and representations should be made to Japan and the Russian authorities here in an unmistakable tone, which would preclude the possibility of bringing these people here. If it is impossible to send them directly from Port Arthur to Odessa, their reconcentration should be effected on Japanese territory, where they could be cared for until they are sent home. This should be true without reference to the character of the refugees, and our recent experiences with Russians of that order in this port has not been reassuring, or of a character to invite any repetition of it.

Trusting that this protest may be joined by others to make it effective.—I am, etc.

CAUTION.

10th January.

The *N.-C. Daily News* replied in these words. Our valued correspondent who signs himself "Caution" gives utterance to a note of alarm which has affected a good many people in the Settlement, but which is, we think, somewhat exaggerated. A large seaport like Shanghai is a natural place for the unfortunate refugees from Port Arthur to assemble while arrangements are being made, and we understand that they will be made as promptly as possible, for their despatch to Russia. They are not likely to arrive here by thousands at a time, and in the French camp which is to be their halting-place, they will surely be far enough from these Settlements to prevent their being a menace to the health of the community. In the interval between the fall of Port Arthur and their arrival here they will have passed through what will practically be a sufficient period of quarantine, if such quarantine is necessary. We cannot but sympathise with these unhappy victims of the war, and it would be scant courtesy or humanity to ban them from our shores in their distress. We commend indeed the kindness which the French Municipal

Council are showing in the preparations they are making, and do not expect that the dire apprehensions of our correspondent and those who agree with him will be realised.

JAPANESE PORCELAIN EXPORTED.

The porcelain exports to the United States are yearly increasing. The following table shows the value of the exports during eleven months:—

| | Yen |
|------------------|--------|
| January | 24,798 |
| February | 35,982 |
| March | 37,776 |
| April | 43,507 |
| May | 49,311 |
| June | 52,068 |
| July | 41,546 |
| August | 46,431 |
| September | 61,690 |
| October | 59,472 |
| November | 43,286 |

Total 495,867

THE "ASKOLD" HOMICIDE AT SHANGHAI.

The Russian sailor belonging to the Russian warship "Askold," interned at Shanghai, who killed a Chinaman with an adze, during an altercation with some ricksha coolies, was tried 13th January by Russian Court Martial.

The Taotai did not send an assessor to sit at the trial. After all the agitation to be represented at the trial, when the Russian Consul refused to absolutely surrender his extraterritorial rights, the Taotai finally declined to send the assessor who had been detailed for the purpose.

The sailor was adjudged to have killed without intention or malice, and was sentenced to four years imprisonment, as well as to be deprived of all his civil rights.

The sentence is regarded as fully adequate.

HONGKONG POLO CLUB.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Hongkong Polo Club was held at the Club Pavilion, Causeway Bay, on the 14th instant. There were present Capt. Nugent (Hon. Secretary), Messrs. Cruickshank, Gedge, Moxon, Johnstone, Rutherford, Robertson, Marshall, Patterson, Major Strickland, Captains Whitehead, Simpson, Ward and Mr. Clarke.

The HON. SECRETARY announced that Government had refused the Club's application for an extension of ground to the east, on account of the great (about \$4,000) expenditure which would be necessary to clear the ground.

The question of allowing ladies to play golf on the Polo ground on off days was then discussed. It was unanimously decided that such permission be refused.

With respect to the proposal to confine games to China ponies, the HON. SECRETARY remarked that if the ground was at present too small the fact that they would not be allowed to extend it was all the more reason why they should confine their games to small mounts, China ponies.

Major STRICKLAND instanced enjoyable games played on small Burma ponies.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK, speaking from experience, said that he considered games played on China ponies quite as much fun, if not more so, than games as at present on mixed ponies. After a certain amount of discussion, he moved that after the closing of the ground in June next all tournament matches be played on China ponies; that the present other mounts (waters and country breeds) now in use be allowed in ordinary games and friendly matches.

Mr. JOHNSTON seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

It was arranged that this decision be wired to regiments coming to Hongkong in the immediate future.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER RESERVES.

PROPOSED RIFLE RANGE FOR THE PEAK.

ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

Colour-Sergeant Bullock on Jan. 18th gave a lecture on "Musketry" to members of the Volunteer Reserve Association, at the Hongkong City Hall Library. Sir H. S. Berkeley (the Chief Justice) was in the chair, and amongst those present were His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., accompanied by his private secretary, the Hon. Capt. L. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis (Hon. Secretary), Mr. W. Danby, Mr. H. W. Robertson, Mr. A. Mackenzie and others.

Sir H. S. BERKELEY said:—Your Excellency and gentlemen of the Volunteer Reserve Association,—I am very glad to see the number who have replied to the very short notice. I thought you would not mind short notice so long as you were able to secure the lecture from Colour-Sergeant Bullock. He has promised to give a lecture to be illustrated by diagrams. It will be most useful to us. I need not say that we appreciate the interest His Excellency the Governor takes in the Association, and his presence here this evening. We now number 120 members, of whom 54 reside at the Peak. We have recently appointed a sub-committee to see if a range can be had at the Peak. Plans have been drawn which have been laid before you, Sir, Your Excellency, and before the General. If that spot can be acquired, and if His Excellency allows us to build a range there, it will be a great thing for the efficiency of the members of the Association. Not only for those residing at the Peak, for the range will be only about five minutes' walk from the top tram station, and will therefore be equally convenient for persons below as for persons at the Peak itself. It will probably be used by all living on the Island of Hongkong, while we will have to fall on the courtesy of the Military and Naval authorities for allowing us to use their ranges for residents at Kowloon. I am able to state for the information of members here present that the General, at the request of His Excellency the Governor, has placed forty good rifles at our disposal (Applause). In a few weeks the Commandant of the Volunteers expects some of the latest pattern short rifles—we will then be able to shoot against the Volunteers (Laughter). I am now able to make an announcement which will be good to you—you will be able to purchase the weapons if you desire to do so and have your own. We will now hear Colour-Sergeant Bullock (Applause).

Colour-Sergeant BULLOCK delivered an extremely interesting lecture, but of rather too technical a nature to justify reproduction. He received hearty applause.

Sir H. S. BERKELEY—Your Excellency and Gentlemen,—I am sure you will be unanimous in responding to a hearty vote of thanks for this very able lecture. All who have been on the range have been impressed by the workmanlike, business-like manner of Colour-Sergeant Bullock in giving us the instruction we require; and when we have been there to the energy of Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis, the very able Honorary Secretary. What we were to hear from Colour-Sergeant Bullock we expected to be good, but I do not think we expected such a capable lecture as this. I have listened, in the course of my time, to many lecturers, but never to one who had a greater grasp of his subject and who delivered his lecture in a more workmanlike manner. I propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Colour-Sergeant Bullock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—Gentlemen, I propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman, to whose energy, coupled with the energy of the Honorary Secretary, so much of the success of the Association is due. I still receive hints for advice and suggestions for further steps to be taken for the advance of the Association. When I can help I do so, but without them I am sure the Association would not make such strides as it does (Applause).

Sir H. S. BERKELEY—If it is true that the Honorary Secretary and myself have done something for the Association none of us will forget that the Association itself is due to His Excellency the Governor (Applause).

HONGKONG'S RAINFALL.

The monthly 1904 rainfall at Hongkong Observatory, with comparative figures, is as follows:—

| | 1904 | Mean. | Max. | Min. |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| January | 0.2 | 1.32 | 8.43 | 0.00 |
| February | 0.2 | 1.86 | 7.95 | 0.02 |
| March | 3.76 | 2.63 | 10.43 | 0.17 |
| April | 1.91 | 5.56 | 14.89 | 1.84 |
| May | 7.70 | 13.43 | 48.84 | 1.15 |
| June | 19.64 | 16.80 | 34.37 | 2.34 |
| July | 7.23 | 13.32 | 28.24 | 4.57 |
| August | 27.64 | 14.22 | 27.87 | 5.20 |
| September | 9.77 | 8.21 | 19.11 | 0.63 |
| October | 2.00 | 4.73 | 17.87 | 0.01 |
| November | 0.22 | 1.71 | 7.32 | 0.01 |
| December | 0.23 | 1.03 | 4.09 | 0.00 |

The yearly rainfall at Hongkong, as registered at the Hongkong Observatory, since 1884 is as follows:—

| | inches. | | inches. |
|------|---------|------|---------|
| 1884 | 75.42 | 1895 | 45.33 |
| 1885 | 10.92 | 1896 | 72.79 |
| 1886 | 69.17 | 1897 | 100.43 |
| 1887 | 66.29 | 1898 | 57.02 |
| 1888 | 104.58 | 1899 | 72.69 |
| 1889 | 119.72 | 1900 | 73.73 |
| 1890 | 70.93 | 1901 | 55.78 |
| 1891 | 117.12 | 1902 | 97.50 |
| 1892 | 90.97 | 1903 | 93.65 |
| 1893 | 99.95 | 1904 | 89.42 |
| 1894 | 104.25 | | |

Last December meteorological observations show the maximum reading of the thermometer was 75.7 on the 8th; the lowest was 44.8 on the 24th; and the mean for the month was 60.7. The velocity of wind varied from 4 miles per hour to 19.9; the mean being 10.6, and the general direction east-north-east.

HONGKONG'S NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

From official sources we learn that Mr. Francis Laylor Piggott, M.A., of Mauritius, will succeed Sir William Meigh Goodman as Chief Justice of the Colony. The Chief Justice is not expected to arrive before May, as Sir William Goodman's term of office does not expire until the end of April.

Mr. Piggott is a barrister-at-law, and was employed on special service by the Foreign Office in 1887. In November of the same year he also acted as legal advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan. He acted as secretary to the Attorney-General, Sir C. Russell (afterwards Lord Russell of Killowen), during the Behring Sea arbitration in 1893-4, and was appointed to Mauritius in 1894 as Procureur-General. He was Acting Chief Justice there between 1895 and 1897. Mr. Piggott has published works entitled "Foreign Judgments," "Services out of the Jurisdiction," "Ex-territoriality," and the "Law of Torts."

POLICE PRESENTATION AT HONGKONG.

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

At the Central Police Station on the 14th instant a large number of the Police force assembled in the reading room for the purpose of bidding farewell and making a presentation to Inspector W. J. Ford, who, after twenty-two years' service in the Hongkong Police, was leaving that afternoon per the s.s. *Malta* for the old country. Chief Inspector Baker, in making the presentation, referred to the arrival of Inspector Ford and himself in 1882, from which time they had been close comrades. The Colony in those days was not what it is at the present time, either in size, safety or health. Police duties were then very arduous; crime was rampant, and armed robberies were of almost daily occurrence. It was not uncommon for the Police to have to turn out, armed to the teeth, to pursue marauding bands of robbers, especially in Bonham Strand district. But few houses were to be seen on the hillsides in those days, and there was only one European resident

at Kowloon. The colony was smaller, and there were no reclamations such as we can boast to-day. These improvements have gone far to facilitate the suppression of crime, as the new and well-made roads furnish easier methods of getting about. Personally speaking, Mr. Baker said he lost a genial and genuine comrade, and friend of years, in the departure of Mr. Ford. The force also lost a tried and trusty officer, and he felt sure all were sorry to see him go, but doubtless he knew his own affairs best, so they could only hope he would have a pleasant time and safe voyage to the Homeland; a pleasant re-union with his wife and children, and long life to enjoy his well-earned pension. On behalf of his brother officers and himself, Mr. Baker then presented Mr. Ford with a handsome gold watch with the recipient's monogram engraved on the back, and an inscription reading as follows inside the case: "Presented to Inspector W. J. Ford by the European members of the Hongkong Police Force, January 1905."

Mr. Ford, in accepting the presentation, said he spoke with very mixed feelings, for, while on this occasion he could not but feel very great pleasure at the kindness shown him, and the appreciative remarks of Mr. Baker, he was still filled with regret that he had to leave so many old comrades. His first duty, however, was to those who awaited him at Home, and he earnestly hoped that all present might live to be the centres of such an occasion in their own good time, and, from the Captain Superintendent to the last joined constable, he wished them all health and happiness and a most prosperous career.

The health of the departing Inspector was then drunk, the toast being greeted with three hearty cheers and a "tiger." Mr. Ford then left for the ship with a number of his old friends.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 13th January.

SIR,—With reference to the letter which appears in your paper of to-day's issue over the name of "Inquirer" in connection with the above company, I am at a loss to understand how the appointed consulting committee have allowed such an account to be issued.

It appears from the balance sheet that the overdraft with the bank, reserve fund and about \$36,000 of the company's funds have been utilised to finance another company under the same management. It would be interesting to know whether they were consulted on the subject; if so, then it is quite time another committee was appointed in their stead, who would look after the interests of the shareholders, and see that the surplus funds are invested in concerns other than under control of the general managers.

The investing public will note that there are still 100,000 shares unissued, and no doubt in a very short time shareholders will be approached to take up this issue should the company require more funds, but I trust that shareholders will never consent to such a proposal until the general managers and consulting committee dispose of their present investments, and utilise their funds in an advantageous manner to the company, and not for the purpose of bolstering up unsound, or rather untried ventures.

Allow me in conclusion to state that this complaint is made solely to impress the consulting committee that they are custodians of our interests, and in accepting office must carry out their responsibilities and show they deserve the confidence of those who appointed them—I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant.

"ONE OF THE SHAREHOLDERS."

The Rev. W. Bridie, Wesleyan Acting Chaplain to the Army and Navy, finished his term of service at the Wesleyan Church, Wanchai, January 22nd. He preached at both services, morning and evening. Mr. and Mrs. Bridie are leaving the Colony by the P. & O. s.s. *Coromandel* on January 28th. The Rev. C. Bone, formerly in Hongkong, succeeds in the chaplaincy.

HONGKONG.

Of the six entries for the Pilots' examination at the Harbour Office on Jan 16 three of the men who went up obtained certificates. The successful candidates were Messrs. W. S. Burrows, B. S. Lawlor and Wong Tai Hoo.

On Jan. 20, about three p.m. a Chinese seaman, while doing cleaning work fell from the mast of a steamer in the harbour. He was taken to the Hospital, and died two hours after admission there.

At the Crown Lands sale at the Public works Department on the 16th inst. Inland Lot No. 164, situate at Tai Hang Village, was let for a term of 75 years to Mr. Cheng Wa Kwan for \$1,370, being \$20 above the upset price. There was no competition.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Chow Fung Shi, mother of Mr. Chow Hing Ki, comrade to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and Mr. Chow Sui Lum, Manager of the Tai Won Bank, took place on January 19th. The cortege left No. 5, West Terrace, Caine Road, for Kennedytown dead-house, where the deceased is to be until a suitable burial place is arranged for her in Canton. Most of the leading local Chinese were present, also several European friends.

At six o'clock on the 19th inst. fire broke out at No. 257, Des Vœux Road (Central premises occupied by a man named Lui Hing. The house was in the painters' hands preparatory to being used as a boarding house. A bundle of wood near the kitchen was probably ignited by a spark, and this set fire to the stairs. The brigade was prompt in attendance and put out the fire. The damage is estimated at \$100; it is not covered by insurance.

The Police at Sheung Shin Station in the New Territory were informed by a native named Chung Hang that he and three comrades, while travelling from Taipoo, were held up by a band of five armed robbers. The informant stated that when the brigands covered his party with revolvers he made off, accompanied by several bullets which did not find their billets. His friends, he thought, also effected their escape, although he has not seen any of them since. A search party has been sent out, but so far none of the robbers have been found.

The following is the list of Hongkong architects at present authorised:—Messrs. H. W. Bird, G. Blood, J. E. Boulton, A. Bryer, W. Chatham, W. Danby, A. Denison, H. G. C. Fisher, C. H. Gale, L. Gibbs, A. E. Griffin, B. B. Hacker, E. M. Hazeland, A. H. Hewitt, A. H. Hollingsworth, A. Shelton Hooper, P. N. H. Jones, W. P. Lambert, J. E. Lee, J. Lemm, D. Macdonald, J. Orange, A. H. Ough, T. L. Perkins, S. J. Powell, E. A. Ram, C. H. Rew, C. B. Thomas, H. P. Tooker, A. Turner, C. Warren, Wong Kat Son, Wong A. Cheong, and A. Wright.

On the evening of the 18th instant a fire occurred at a furniture shop, No. 41, Wellington Street. Some coolies engaged in shipping cases in a cock-loft upset a kerosene lamp, which is supposed to have ignited some loose packing lying about. The fire had been practically put out by the residents of the shop when the brigade under Chief Inspector Baker arrived on the scene. Their services were required however, for a second outbreak which occurred in a rattan and matting shop in Newmarket Street. The first and second floors of this shop were gutted before the flames could be got under way, but a constant playing of the hose saved the adjoining premises from ignition.

A Chinaman hailing from Kowloon City was charged before Mr. Gompertz at the Police Court on Jan 19 with carrying arms without a permit. He was found on a hillside at eleven o'clock at night bearing a big sword, and being a very big man terrorised all who happened to come in his way. The defendant told His Worship that he heard some dogs baying, and thinking some thieves had come to steal his vegetables, armed himself with the sword, which he was carrying when arrested by a constable. His Worship thought the case very suspicious, but when the constable informed him that some dogs were barking at the time of the arrest, he remanded the case in order that inquiries might be made from Sergeant Cameron at Kowloon City. Bail was allowed in the sum of \$2.

There were three further candidates for Pilots' certificates at the examination held at the Harbour Office Jan. 17. Mr. Wong Tai was the only successful one.

At the Magistracy on the 18th inst. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz held an inquiry into the cause of death of James Douglas, who was taken to the Government Civil Hospital with a fractured skull, where he died on the 10th instant. The finding of the jury was in accordance with the Medical Officer's statement, that death was due to a fractured skull caused by a fall. He had been drinking heavily.

It was reported to Inspector Collett at No. 7 Police Station on the 17th instant by the engineer of the Yaumati ferry launch, that he found a European floating in the harbour in an apparently lifeless condition. He pulled him on board and landed him at the Yaumati Ferry Wharf, where the Inspector found him surrounded by a crowd of Chinese. He (the Inspector) unsuccessfully tried to resuscitate him, and then sent him to the Government Civil Hospital. At this time his body was warm. There were marks of violence about the face and a blood-stained handkerchief was found in his pocket. On arrival at the Hospital Dr. Laing examined the body and found that the man was dead. A card was found in his pocket bearing the name of Thomas Crowther Aigland Greenland, from which it was learnt that deceased was the mate of the s.s. *Pak Kong*. The Police have at present been unable to obtain any further evidence.

Messrs Geo. Fenwick and Company recently lent a launch to a missionary party to go to Cheung Chow Island, situated about twelve miles from Hongkong towards Macao. The Rev. Pearce acted as Cantonese interpreter, and amongst others present were the Rev. C. H. Hickling, Messrs. W. G. Winterburn and H. J. Hursthouse. The elders of the village—described by our informant as looking like "Foochow Gods"—were interviewed, and told that it was proposed to open a school and send a European teacher to the island. The old gentlemen wagged their heads and said they would have their children educated according to Western methods in such case—if there was anything to be gained by it. Two or three dollars a week per pupil however was considered a lot of money to spend, but "maskee" they said, if the investment was good. They would not definitely promise to support the school; but it was gathered that some fifteen pupils might be obtained. As some of the residents are sending their children to Hongkong, where they attend at Catholic schools, a counter movement may be expected on the part of Roman Catholic missionaries. It would be a good thing for the natives to have schools—and if competing schools all the better—on the island. Protestant missionaries owning property on the island are willing, it is understood, to hand over a house for the new Protestant scheme.

A daring act of piracy was perpetrated in Hongkong harbour between the hours of one and four o'clock on Jan. 10. What is known as a pass junk—that is a junk carrying a special permit which entitles it to leave port at any hour—carrying a crew of about ten men, was bringing a cargo of goods into port from Shaikwan. When off Quarry Bay the sailors on board the junk noticed a small craft push off from the shore near Pakshiuwan. It headed apparently so as to reach the junk, and on pulling alongside twelve men, armed with swords and revolvers, swarmed on to the junk and ordered the sailors to hold up their hands. For the junkmen, taken by surprise as they were, there was nothing else to do but obey. The pirates then proceeded to blind them by putting pepper in their eyes. Finishing this work to their satisfaction, they then entered the cabin and extracted therefrom an amount of money supposed to be between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Having secured this booty, they headed their skiff for the New Territory. When they thought themselves out of sight, however, they made for shore on the Hongkong side. The leader of the band, with all the money in his possession, was arrested by a Chinese detective in Hollywood Road some hours later, and two further arrests were effected later in the day. Nine of the pirates are still at large, but the police are in pursuit.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

In many respects Chefoo is improving in appearance and convenience. Some new and ornate buildings adorn the Settlement—the Russian Post Office, the Chefoo Pharmacy, and some new residences. Road-making progresses apace.

A native paper says that Chon Ting-pi, who was appointed the other day to the post of the third class adviser to the Board of Commercial Affairs, is a native of Wu-siah and he has made his fortune single-handed from a very poor position, mostly in the transporting business. He is now one of the leading native merchants in Shanghai. He has opened a school in his native town, and may really be described as a model of the good merchants in China. Owing to his high character and ability he has been appointed to his present rank by special favour of the throne, and has also been granted the additional honour of the second class button.

When the German steamer *Elisabeth Rickmers*, which arrived Jan. 20 from Bangkok, was in the Gulf of Siam, a sampan was sighted, drifting without control. The nearest land at the time was some 100 miles distant. A boat was lowered, and returned conveying a Chinese fisherman, in a complete state of exhaustion. When sufficiently recovered to give an account of himself, he stated that he had been blown out to sea by a sudden gale, and had been without food and water for four days. Had he not been rescued by the *Elisabeth Rickmers* he could not have survived another day. Both the unfortunate fisherman and his sampan were taken to Bangkok by the skipper.

The Shanghai Medical Officer of Health reported that during December the number of cases among the foreign resident populations was twelve; there were in addition eighteen deaths among non-residents. Among the Chinese population the number of deaths during the month was 777; of these 315 were from small-pox. During December the incidence of small-pox has been greater than normal both among foreigners and natives, and has been of a severe type. Among the Chinese the number of deaths from this cause during December has been at least three times that usually expected. Diphtheria has also been prevalent among the foreign community. Thirteen cases were notified; but there have been no deaths, a condition that may be accounted for with some degree of probability by the early and general use of Diphtheria Antitoxin. This preparation is now one of the staple products of the Shanghai Municipal Laboratory. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free to all indigent patients on the recommendation of any qualified medical man. There is no scarlet fever among the Chinese, though ten cases have been notified among foreigners.

TRADE ITEMS.

The Manila cattle market is overstocked from a Dutch port, and a slackness of business at Hongkong in this direction results.

Mr James Whittall has resumed charge of the China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited.

Mr. A. H. Watts is reported to have left Tientsin for Shanghai, to take charge of the shipping department of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co in the stead of the late Mr. Fullerton.

Since the meeting of British North Borneo shareholders on the 13th Dec., the expert to whom the blue ground (diamondiferous) was submitted has reported favourably.

The estimated revenue of Perak in 1905 is set at \$10,466,121 against \$10,731,720, the probable revenue for 1904. The outlay for 1905 is given as being \$10,500,876, against \$10,322,749, the probable expenditure in 1904.

The Hongkong correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* had this to say of the December Settlement on the local 'Change:—"The settlements this month were very heavy, and the brokers have their work cut out, but it is not expected that any grave difficulties will be encountered, although one face familiar on the Rialto has disappeared. His liabilities, estimated at some \$60,000, will not, however, I think, complicate the settlements."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co. of Shanghai, in their Circular dated 9th January state:—Black Teas.—Market closed. Green Teas.—Pingsueys.—A fair business has passed during the interval in clean liquoring Teas at an advance of Tls. 1-2 per picul, also about 5,000 packages of Third Gunpowders at Tls. 9-11, and 7,000 packages Young Hyson at Tls. 11-13 per picul, have been purchased by native speculators, to be changed to Black Tea for shipment to Port Arthur, etc. Country Teas.—The Market has been cleared of these descriptions at rather easier rates. Local Packed Teas.—A small business has been done at a decline of Tls. 2 to 3 per picul for London. The remaining stock of 1,000 packages consists of Common Foong Mee Young Hysons. Settlements since the 12th ult.:—25,428 half-chests. Total settlements since opening of market to date:—374,181 half-chests; Stock 24,040 half-chests. Last year figures were:—447,343 half-chests; Stock 8,768 half-chests. Settlements of Hyson and Young Hyson since opening of market to date:—Arrivals 141,014, settlements 140,766 half-chests, stock 248 half-chests.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 20th Jan.—The prices are going upward, holders being firm.
 Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.75 to \$8.80 p.c's.
 Do. " 2, White.....\$7.75 to \$7.80 "
 Do. " 1, Brown.....6.25 to 6.30 "
 Do. " 2, Brown.....6.05 to 6.30 "
 Swatow, No. 1, White.....8.60 to 8.65 "
 Do. " 2, White.....7.70 to 7.75 "
 Do. " 1, Brown.....6.05 to 6.10 "
 Do. " 2, Brown.....5.90 to 5.95 "
 Foochow Sugar Candy12.90 to 12.95 "
 Shekloong "10.90 to 10.95 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 20th Jan.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.
 Saigon, Ordinary\$2.25 to \$2.30
 " Round, good quality3.95 to 3.90
 " Long.....3.95 to 4.00
 Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 22.60 to 2.65
 " Garden, " No. 12.75 to 2.80
 " White,4.05 to 4.10
 " Fine Cargo4.30 to 4.35

OPIUM.

14th January.

Quotations are:— Allow'ce net. to 1 catty.
 Malwa New\$1070 to \$1090 per picul.
 Malwa Old\$1140 to \$1160 do.
 Malwa Older\$1200 to \$1220 do.
 Malwa V. Old.....\$1250 to \$1270 do.
 Persian fine quality\$880 to — do.
 Persian extra fine.....\$90 to — do.
 Patna New\$1127½ to — per chest.
 Patna Old\$ — to — do.
 Benares New\$177½ to — do.
 Benares Old.....\$ — to — do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 12th January, 1905, states:—After the stirring events in the North mentioned in our last there is another lull in the operations, but meanwhile everyone is lost in admiration and almost wonder at the perfectly correct and methodical manner in which the Japanese are treating what would have been a serious problem to many an older established first class Power. Every little detail appears to have been thought out, and arrangements made as though it were an everyday occurrence. No hitch of any kind has happened: steamers were ready for conveyance of the surrendered garrison, and in less than ten days all who were released on parole are well on their way to other realms, while there is little room for doubt that those who are forced to stay will be treated with more care and consideration than was ever the lot of military prisoners before. At the same time the civil and administrative staffs are busily at work settling the place in order, and preparing for the resumption of commerce. The fall of Port Arthur has relieved the authorities of the necessity of placing any restrictions on the use of Da'ny as a port of call, and doubtless shipments will soon be finding their way by that route to the Manchurian markets. But the thought at once arises, what chance will foreign trade have against a country whose Government is capable of such organization, and is willing not only to pave the way, but to foster the efforts of her manufacturing classes to gain the control of those markets? No doubt the excellent banking system so successfully established in Japan will soon be introduced into Corea and Manchuria,

over which that country must continue to hold paramount influence, and will in time bring about the monetary reformation in China, so much needed and desired. It opens up a really fascinating vista which cannot fail to be beneficial to the commercial interests of the world generally. So much for the future, but meanwhile the present is deadly dull. Let us hope it is only the usual concomitant of the transition state. The financial arrangements of Shanghai, almost invariably in a strained condition at this period of the Native year, have been subjected to quite unaccustomed dislocations during the past few weeks. Money has been draining out of the place, and owing to its scarcity merchants are unable to take up contracts with the local dealers, thus causing considerable inconvenience and incapacity to do business. However, things are certainly improving, in spite of the near approach of China New Year and there is more demand for ready cargo of certain descriptions. The dealers have, apparently, come to an understanding with one another to keep prices up, and a basis seems to have been agreed upon on which to do business with the country merchants. Consequently orders now coming in are being executed at prices satisfactory to the sellers, the demand, though not large, being fairly general, and the goods resold being destined for Tientsin, Hankow, Chefoo and Ningpo. Shipments to the first named Port and Newchwang are being made via Chinwangtao, and we understand that the restrictions we mentioned last week as having been reimposed at the latter port by the Japanese authorities have not been in force since the Consul-General here obtained their removal, what led to our remark being a belated report of the previous occurrence.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 13th January.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN— per bale
 Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...\$90.00 to \$128.00
 English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...140.00 to 160.00
 " 22 to 24, ...160.00 to 165.00
 " 28 to 32, ...167.50 to 175.00
 " 38 to 42, ...180.00 to 190.00
 Reported sales 10,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS— per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.2.20 to 2.25
 7 lbs.2.30 to 2.40
 8.4 lbs.3.00 to 4.00
 9 to 10 lbs.4.10 to 5.30
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.80 to 3.00
 58 to 60 " 3.10 to 3.60
 64 to 66 " 3.80 to 5.4
 Fine6.10 to 8.00
 Book-folds 5.30 to 8.10
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...0.80 to 1.00
 T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.20 to 2.3
 7lbs. (32 ") " 2.70 to 3.00
 6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 2.25 to 2.70
 7lbs. (32 ") " 2.90 to 3.20
 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.25 to 30.8
 Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " 5.10 to 8.00
 to 14 lbs.)

FANCY COTTONS—
 Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 1.75 to 4.00
 8 lbs.)

per year
 Brocades—Dyed0.13 to 0.14
 Damasks..... —
 Chintzes—Assorted0.08½ to 0.20
 Velvets—Black, 22 in.0.23 to 0.50
 Velveteens—18 in.0.23 to 0.27

per dozen
 Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.56 to 1.25

WOOLLENS— per yard
 Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.70 to 2.10
 German0.60 to 0.85
 Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50

per piece
 Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 7.80 to 9.25
 Assorted7.95 to 9.40
 Camlets—Assorted.....13.00 to 32.00
 Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 12.50 to 20.00
 Assorted (")

Orleans—Plain, 31 in.10.00 to —

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.0.65 to 1.80

METALS— per picul

Iron—Nail Rod4.0 to —
 Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 3.95 to —
 Swedish Bar4.05 to —
 Small Round Rod4.35 to —
 Hoop ½ to 1½ in.6.20 to —
 Wire, 16/25 oz.9.50 to —
 Wire Rope, Old3.00 to —
 Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop 8.80 to —
 Australian8.80 to —
 Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 40.75 to —
 Vivian's 14/20 oz. 40.75 to —
 Elliot's 14/20 oz. 40.75 to —

HANKOW, January 11th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Per picul.
 Cowhides, Best SelectedTls. 85.00
 Do. Seconds81.00
 Buffalo hides, Best Selected19.00
 Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color " 55.00
 Buffalo Hides, average 3-lbs. each " 9.00
 White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....11.00
 White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayn —
 Green China Grass, Szechuen9.80
 Jute4.30
 White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow.....10.00
 White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng9.80
 White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu8.50
 Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....9.30
 Animal Tallow16.70
 Gallnuts, Usual shape.....18.00
 Do. Plum do. —
 Tobacco, Tingchow.....(nominal) —
 Do. Wungkong —
 Black Bristles(nom.) —
 Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck " 21.00
 " " Wild Duck " 24.90
 " " " 8.00
 Turmeric4.00
 Sesamum Seed7.90
 Sesamum Seed Oil7.90
 Vegetable Tallow Seed-Oil7.80
 Wood Oil9.00
 Tea Oil —

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS.

JANUARY 7TH, 1905. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Custom House from 24th December to 30th December 4 p.m., 1904:—

IMPORTS.

| Goods | QUANTITY |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Cotton Raw, Indian | pls. — |
| " " Native | 246 |
| " Yarn | 1,452 |
| Shirtings, Grey | pes. 424 |
| T-Cloths | 1,239 |
| Shirtings, White | 876 |
| T. Red Shirtings | 282 |
| Drills | — |
| Shirtings Dyed, Brocades | 54 |
| " Dyed | 56 |
| Damasks | — |
| Camlets | 54 |
| Lastings | 13 |
| Spanish Stripes | yds. 511 |
| Lustres, Figured | — |
| Lead, in pigs | pls. 100 |
| Tin, in slabs | 31 |
| Iron, Nail rod | — |
| Quicksilver | 1 |
| Iron, Old | — |
| Ironwire | — |
| Rice | 5,310 |
| Opium, Patna | — |
| " Benares | 39 |
| " Persia | 26 |
| " Malwa | — |
| " Szechuan | 126 |
| " Yunnan | 63 |
| " Kiangsu | 13 |
| Sesamum Seed | 2,320 |
| Sapanwood | — |
| Sandalwood | 79 |
| Rattans | 12 |
| Wheat | 3,251 |
| Flour | 3,260 |
| Beancake | 3,228 |
| Beans and Peas | 32,960 |
| Bicho de Mar | 170 |
| Mats Tea | pes. — |
| Oil, Kerosine American | gals. — |
| " " Borneo in bulk | — |
| " " Russian | 1,000 |
| " " Sumatra | — |
| " " Bulk | 108,215 |
| Coal | tons. 1,871 |
| Tobacco Leaf | pls. 560 |
| Verniceoil | 163 |

EXPORTS

| Goods | QUANTITY |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Sugar, White | pls. 25 |
| " Brown | 524 |
| " Candy | 480 |
| Hemp Bags | pes. 4,700 |
| " Sacking | 700 |
| Paper I Quality | pls. 818 |
| " II | 372 |
| Tobacco, Prepared | 536 |
| Kittysols (umbrellas) | pes. 6,360 |

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Palawan*, sailed on 18th January. For London:—3 packages lacquerware, 1 case porcelain, 69 packages tea, 270 bales canes, 1 case bird feather, 656 packages mats and matting, 50 cases chinaware, 10 cases woodware, 28 cases bristles, 4 cases rattanware, 1 case pianos, 26 cases curios &c., 2 packages old documents, 16 packages private effects, 1 case cigars, 1 case silver, 3 cases tin plates, 10 tubs gallnuts. For London or Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For Copenhagen:—106 rolls mats. For Glasgow:—2) cases palm leaf fans. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—140 bales waste silk, 4 cases hair. For Gibraltar:—1 case S. P. goods.

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 20th January, 1905.—In the absence of any relief from the financial stringency referred to in our last, our market has continued to rule dull during the week under review, and there is again but little new business to report. On the whole, however, quotations close fairly steady, and in many cases an improvement may be looked for on a return of normal financial facilities.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have jumped in London to £76, whilst locally the rate has improved to \$715 with small sales and further buyers. Nationals have again changed ownership at \$38.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved to \$700 with sales and probable small sellers at the rate. China Traders have been booked at \$58, and Cantons at \$250, the latter being in further request. Small parcels of Yangtszes are wanted at \$150, whilst North Chinas are procurable at Tls. 96.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are slightly easier with small sellers at \$340. Chinas have been booked, and are still asked for at \$91.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have sold in fair quantities at \$26½ and \$27, and close steady at the higher rate. Indo-Chinas have again changed hands at \$124 and more shares can be placed. For forward delivery a better tone prevails, and transactions at \$132 and \$133 June, \$133 to \$134 July, and \$135 August are reported. China and Manilas and Star Ferries are neglected at last quotations, whilst Douglases have again been fixed at \$33½ and close with further buyers. Shell Transports are easier with sellers at 25/.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$219 closing firm with probable buyers. Luzons have advanced to \$20 buyers.

MINING.—Charbonnages are unchanged and close without feature at \$490. Raubs are enquired for at \$34.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong & Whampoa Docks are easier with sellers at \$217. Kowloon Wharves (old) are procurable at \$104½ and (new) at \$102. New Amoy Docks are unchanged with sellers at \$27. Farnham, Boyds have declined to Tls. 151 with probable local buyers at the rate.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$146 but close easier with sellers at \$145. Kowloon Lands continue in the market at \$38½, and West Points at \$39. Hongkong Hotels are unchanged with sellers at \$142. Humphreys' Estates (old) have been booked at \$124 and \$12½, and (new) at \$11½. Shanghai Lands have sold and have further buyers at Tls. 114.

COTTON MILLS.—Internationals have declined to Tls. 24, and Hongkongs are on offer at \$13.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos are in request at \$13½. China Providents have been booked at \$9½ and \$9, and close with sellers at \$9 ex the dividend of 80 cents per share for 1904 paid yesterday. Green Island Cements have sold at \$29 and a few more shares are procurable at the rate. Steam Laundries (new) are wanted at \$4. Watsons (old) have been booked at \$12½, and (new) at \$12, the latter closing in further request.

MEMOS.—Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., and West Point Building Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meetings on the 30th instant, transfer books closed from the 21st to 30th instant inclusive. Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 3th instant, transfer books closing on the 24th to the 30th instant inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Banks. | | |
| Hongkong & S'hai... | \$125 | (\$715 buyers { L'don, 176 |
| Natl. Bank of China | | |
| A. Shares | 28 | \$38, sales |
| B. Shares | 28 | \$38, sales |
| Foun. Shares... | 21 | \$10 |
| Insurance. | | |
| Union | \$100 | \$700, sales |
| China Traders | \$25 | \$58, sales |
| North China | 25 | Tls. 96, sellers |
| Yangtsze | \$60 | \$150, buyers |
| Canton | \$50 | \$250, sales & buy. |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$340, sellers |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$91, sales & buyers |
| Steamship Coys. | | |
| H., Canton and M... | \$15 | \$27 |
| Indo-China S. N. ... | \$10 | \$124, buyers |
| China and Manila... | \$50 | \$23, sales |
| Douglas Steamship | \$50 | \$33½, sales & buy. |
| Star Ferry | \$10 | \$38, sellers |
| { | 5 | \$29, sellers |
| Shell Transport and | 21 | 25/., sellers |
| Trading Co. | | |
| Do. pref. shares.... | 210 | 23. 10/. |
| Refineries. | | |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$219 |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$20, buyers |
| Mining. | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 250 | \$490 |
| Raubs | 18/10d. | \$34, buyers |
| Docks, Etc. | | |
| H. & W. Dock | \$50 | \$217, buyers |
| H. & K. Wharf & G. | \$50 | { \$104, old { \$102, new sels. |
| New Amoy Dock ... | \$64 | \$27, sellers |
| S. C. F. Boyd & Co... | Tls. 100 | Tls. 151, buyers |
| Land and Building. | | |
| Hongkong Land Inv | \$100 | \$145, sellers |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$38½ |
| West Point Building | \$50 | \$59, sellers |
| Hongkong Hotel | \$50 | \$142, sellers |
| Humphreys Estate. { | \$10 | \$124, sellers |
| { | 21 | \$11½, sales |
| S'hai Land Ins. Co. Ld. | Tls. 50 | Tls. 114, & buy. |
| Cotton Mills. | | |
| Ewo | Tls. 50 | Tls. 25, buyers |
| International | Tls. 75 | Tls. 24 |
| Laou Kung Mow ... | Tls. 100 | Tls. 30 |
| Soychee | Tls. 500 | Tls. 150, sellers |
| Hongkong | \$10 | \$13, sellers |
| Companies. | | |
| Alhambra Limited... | \$200 | \$100, buyers |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A... | 12/8 | \$54 |
| Campbell, Moore & Co. | \$10 | \$40, sellers |
| China-Borneo Co., Ld. | \$12 | \$13½, buyers |
| China Prov. L. & M. | \$10 | \$9, ex div., sellers |
| Dairy Farm | \$6 | \$12, buyers |
| Geo. Fenwick & Co., | \$25 | \$45, sellers |
| Green Island Cement. | \$10 | \$20, sales & sellers |
| Hongkong Electric { | \$10 | \$15, buyers |
| { | 5 | \$9, buyers |
| Hongkong & C. Gas... | 210 | \$160, buyers |
| H. H. L. Tramways... | \$100 | \$285 |
| Hongkong Ice | \$25 | \$255, sellers |
| Hongkong Rope | \$50 | \$155 |
| Hk. Steam Water- { | \$10 | \$20, sellers |
| Boat Co., Ld. | | |
| Phippine Tobacco { | \$10 | \$94, sellers |
| Trust Co., Ld. ... | | |
| Shanghai and Hong- { | \$50 | \$50 |
| kong Dyeing and { | | |
| Cleaning Co., Ld. } | | |
| S. C. Morning Post ... | \$25 | \$22, buyers |
| China Light & Power { | \$10 | \$10, sellers |
| Co., Ld. | | |
| Steam Laundry Co., { | \$5 | \$7 |
| { | 3 | \$4, buyers |
| United Asbestos | \$4 | \$94 |
| Do | \$10 | \$780 |
| Watkins, Ld. | \$10 | \$9, sellers |
| Watson & Co., A. S. { | \$10 | \$12½, sales |
| { | 10 | \$12, buyers |
| William Powell, Ld... | \$10 | \$12½, sellers |

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report for the Week ending January 12th, 1905, states, —A fair general business has been done since our last issue, and rates in the principal stocks have remained fairly steady, with the exception of an upward spurt in the price of Farnham, Boyd's which subsequently fell to previously prevailing rates. In some cases shares were held over from December, and a settlement had to be made during the week. The T.F. rate on London close at 2/8½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks: Business has been done locally at \$700 with exchange at 70½. The Hongkong quotation is the

same as ours. Marine and Fire Insurance.—Yangtsze Insurances have changed hands at \$150. There is nothing else to report under this heading Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. Only a single transaction is reported at Tls. 91½ for March. Our market is exceedingly quiet, and there seems to be no shares on offer. Shanghai Tans here are buyers of ordinary shares at Tls. 50. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., Ld. The dividend of Tls. 5 was duly paid on the 6th, and shares are now quoted ex dividend. There has been some violent fluctuations as usual in this market, which opened at Tls. 155 for cash on the 6th, and 157 for March delivery. A drop of Tls. 5 took place on the following day for cash shares. On the 9th rate improved again to 155 for cash, 160, 165 and 170 for March, to fall once more on the 10th to 156 and 152½ for cash and 161 for March. We have only to quote the market at closing is 152½ for cash, and 157½ for March, with buyers at the latter rate. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves have been placed during the week at Tls. 155, 152½ and 150, and 155 c.n.f. for March delivery. No transactions are reported in cash shares. Yangtsze Wharf and Godown Co., Ld. have changed hands at Tls. 190. Sugars.—China Sugars are quoted at \$225 nominal in the South. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. Bearer's scrip has been dealt with at Tls. 7 for cash. Weihaiwei Golds. Through fault of management and unsatisfactory reports, shares fell during the week to as low as \$4 and close at about 6½. The financial position of this company seems in a very precarious condition. Lands.—Shanghai Lands remain steady at Tls. 117. There is nothing to report on other stocks. Industrial.—International Cottons have been done at Tls. 24. A transaction in Gas shares has been reported at 106. A parcel of Waterworks was sold at Tls. 400. Ices have been placed at Tls. 19. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. We have to report a serious decline in this stock. The early part of the week shares changed hands at Tls. 280 for cash and 292½ for March. Rates have steadily declined since, to close at 262½ for cash and 277½ for March, at which rate there are sellers. Stores and Hotels.—Mondons changed hands at Tls. 9; there are buyers at slightly better rates. Hotel des Colonies have been placed at Tls. 21 and shares are offering at this rate. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Mutual Telephones remain steady at Tls. 68. Loans and Debentures.—Waterworks 6% debentures are reported at 94½ cash; Astor House 8% debentures have been placed at 104.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 23rd January.

| | |
|---|------------|
| ON LONDON. | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 1/11½ |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 1/11½ |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 1/11½ |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 1/11½ |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 20 |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 20½ |
| ON PARIS. | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 248 |
| Credits 4 months' sight | 251½ |
| ON GERMANY. | |
| On demand | 201½ |
| ON NEW YORK. | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 48½ |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 48½ |
| ON BOMBAY. | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 146½ |
| Bank, on demand | 147 |
| ON CALCUTTA. —Telegraphic Transfer | 146½ |
| Bank, on demand | 147 |
| ON SHANGHAI. —Bank, at sight | 71½ |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 72½ |
| ON YOKOHAMA. —On demand | 87 |
| ON MANILA. —On demand | 95½ |
| ON SINGAPORE. —On demand | 1 p.c. pm. |
| ON BATAVIA. —On demand | 118½ |
| ON HAIPHONG. —On demand | 1 p.c. pm. |
| ON SAIGON. —On demand | 1 par |
| ON BANGKOK. —On demand | 6½ |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | \$10.05 |
| GOLD LEAF, 10 fine, per tael | \$53.40 |
| SILVER, per oz. | 27½ |

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—40/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus River Freight. To New York (Overland):—Tea G. \$14 cents per lb. gross, plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Tael 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January—

ARRIVALS.

- 13, C. F. Laeisz, German str., from Moji.
 13, Chihli, British str., from Wakamatsu.
 13, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 13, Empire, British str., from Australia.
 13, Glenfalloch, British str., from Straits.
 13, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 13, Kansu, British str., from Hongay.
 13, Longships, British str., from Yokohama.
 13, Lydia, German str., from Wuhu.
 13, Stettin, British str., from Singapore.
 13, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 13, Werneth Hall, British str., from Java.
 14, Chunsang, British str., from Canton.
 14, Forest Hall, British ship, from New York.
 14, Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 14, Hinsang, British str., from Moji.
 14, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 14, Macquarie, British str., from Moji.
 14, Orange, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 14, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Simla, British str., from Bombay.
 14, Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
 14, Triumph, German str., from Coast Ports.
 15, An Pho, British str., from Saigon.
 15, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 15, Dunearn, British str., from Cardiff.
 15, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
 15, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 15, Ningpo, British str., from Wuhu.
 15, Siam, Austrian str., from Singapore.
 15, Tsinan, British str., from Sydney.
 16, Castor, Norwegian str., from Langkat.
 16, Confidenza, Italian str., from Cardiff.
 16, Croydon, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Decima, German str., from Anping.
 16, Hector, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Himalaya, French str., from Haiphong.
 16, Kalgan, British str., from Wuhu.
 16, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 16, Oscar II., Norw. str., from Kutchinotzu.
 16, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
 16, Palawan, British str., from Yokohama.
 16, Phuyen, French str., from Chinkiang.
 16, Progress, German str., from Chefoo.
 16, Taishan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 16, Ulo, Norwegian str., from Java.
 16, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
 16, Yiksang, British str., from Wuhu.
 16, Zaffro, British str., from Manila.
 17, Brunhilde, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Chinkiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Fri, Norwegian str., from Java.
 17, Hellas, German str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 17, Rambler, British str., from Manila.
 17, Roon, German str., from Yokohama.
 17, Siberia, American str., from San Francisco.
 18, Ambria, German str., from Shanghai.
 18, Andalusia, German str., from Hamburg.
 18, Astraea, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 18, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, Emps. of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 18, Foochow, British str., from Canton.
 18, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
 18, Holstein, German str., from Sourabaya.
 18, Kamor, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 18, Lily, Belgian str., from Labuan.
 18, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Loksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 18, M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.
 18, Neptune, British str., from Singapore.
 18, Signal, German str., from Haiphong.
 18, Tjipans, Dutch str., from Amoy.
 18, Zieten, German str., from Bremen.
 19, Banca, British str., from London.
 19, Geier, German cruiser, from Amoy.
 19, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
 19, Highlander, British str., from Moji.
 19, Tremont, American str., from Manila.
 20, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
 20, E. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 20, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 20, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 20, Lydia, German str., from Canton.
 20, Mathilde, German str., from Pakhoi.
 20, Numantia, German str., from Portland.
 20, Persia, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 20, Pandua, British str., from Singapore.
 20, Shahzada, British str., from Chinkiang.
 20, Sutlej, British str., from Portsmouth.
 20, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 20, V. da Gama, Portuguese cr., from Macao.

- 21, Benarty, British str., from Moji.
 21, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Hogue, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
 21, Hyson, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Iphigenia, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
 21, Iyo Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 21, Linan, British str., from Canton.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 21, Lyra, American str., from Shanghai.
 21, Ohsang, British str., from Java.
 21, Taiyuan, British str., from Kobe.
 21, Tientsin, British str., from Canton.
 21, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 22, Alesia, German str., from Hamburg.
 22, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 22, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.

January—

DEPARTURES.

- 13, Clara Jebson, Ger. str., for Chinkiang.
 13, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 13, Dongola, British str., for Ocean Island.
 13, Elze, German str., for Kobe.
 13, Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.
 13, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Ischia, Italian str., for Bombay.
 13, Lydia, German str., for Canton.
 13, Kamor, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 13, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 13, Mathilde, German str., for Hoilow.
 13, Palma, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Szechuen, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
 13, Yatshing, British str., for Wuhu.
 13, Yushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 14, Algoa, British str., for San Francisco.
 14, Canton, German str., for Shanghai.
 14, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 14, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., for Haiphong.
 14, Elg, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
 14, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 14, Malta, British str., for Europe.
 14, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
 14, Rabi, British str., for Manila.
 14, Schleswig, German str., for Shanghai.
 14, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Tarang, American str., for Pellew Island.
 15, Denbighshire, British str., for Nagasaki.
 15, Empire, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 15, Glenroy, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Holstein, German str., for Tientsin.
 15, Kansu, British str., for Hongay.
 15, Simla, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Stettin, British str., for Foochow.
 15, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 15, Tientsin, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Alacrity, British str., for Amoy.
 16, C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., for Hamburg.
 16, Dragoman, British str., for Manila.
 16, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
 16, Kowloon, German str., for Canton.
 16, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
 16, Siam, Austrian str., for Kiautschou.
 16, Werneth Hall, Brit. str., for Sourabaya.
 17, Chunsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Croydon, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Hailan, French str., for Hoilow.
 17, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 17, Hellas, German str., for Canton.
 17, Himalaya, French str., for Shanghai.
 17, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 17, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 17, Pakhoi, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 17, Wosang, British str., for Wuhu.
 18, Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 18, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
 18, Decima, German str., for Anping.
 18, Hopang, British str., for Kobe.
 18, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, K. Elisabeth, Austrian cr., for Macao.
 18, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Marie Joben, German str., for Moji.
 18, Namsang, British str., for Singapore.
 18, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.
 18, Triumph, German str., for Coast Ports.
 18, Vasco da Gama, Portuguese cr., for Macao.
 19, Apenrade, German str., for Hoilow.
 19, Dunearn, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Eastry, British str., for Mororan.
 19, Foochow, British str., for Wuhu.
 19, Hector, British str., for London.
 19, Linan, British str., for Canton.
 19, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 19, Neptune, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Orange, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.

- 19, Petchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 19, Roon, German str., for Europe.
 19, Tsinan, British str., for Yokohama.
 19, Zieten, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Ambria, German str., for Hamburg.
 20, Andalusia, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, An Pho, British str., for Saigon.
 20, Banca, British str., for Kobe.
 20, Brunhilde, German str., for Bangkok.
 20, Germania, German str., for Bangkok.
 20, Hinsang, British str., for Hongay.
 20, Kamor, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 20, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Lydia, German str., for Chinkiang.
 20, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
 20, Sperber, German gunboat, for Canton.
 20, Themis, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 20, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Macassar.
 20, Tremont, American str., for Moji.
 21, Anghin, German str., for Swatow.
 21, Castor, Norwegian str., for Langkat.
 21, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 21, Shahzada, British str., for Canton.
 21, Zaffro, British str., for Manila.
 22, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
 22, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Longships, British str., for Moji.
 22, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 22, Mathilde, German str., for Hoilow.
 22, M. Struve, German str., for Tamsui.
 22, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Ulo, Norwegian str., for Saigon.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Simla*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. Dalling, Mr. and Mrs. E. Jones Hughes and 2 children, Surgeon and Mrs. A. S. T. Bell, Lieut. C. W. Bearblock, Lieut. Buxton, Lady H. Buxton, Messrs. H. Rankin, A. Everton, A. Wilkins, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gotto, Mr. G. McPherson, Col. F. Lewis, Messrs. B. L. Frost, V. M. Graburn, J. H. Pentecost and C. C. Scott; from Brindisi, Mr. W. Dewall; from Sydney, Mr. Ponsonby; from Colombo, Sergt. and Mrs. Keyte and infant, Mr. Sergt. and Mrs. Crane and 4 children; from Singapore, Messrs. L. P. Solomon, MacKay, Gutierrez and Ruiz; for Shanghai, from London, Miss McEwan, Messrs. J. R. Owen, G. W. Clarke, J. Sullivan, Miss A. A. Roberts; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Barton, Mr. L. C. Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. MacEwan, Misses MacEwan (2), and Mr. F. J. F. Finhata; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Carns; for Kobe, from London, Mr. J. Fidler; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. J. Noble.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Doris Ellis, Mrs. E. Jacobson, Mr. J. McMullin, Capt. Van Dusen, U.S.N., Col. H. P. Hatfield, U.S.A., Mrs. Dusen, Messrs. F. E. Shaw, W. F. De Sombre, U.S.A., and H. Price; Miss J. A. Somerville, Mrs. A. Carter, Mrs. H. J. Andrews and 3 children, Mr. E. N. Barretto, Miss B. Barretto, Mrs. B. D. Barretto and 4 children.

DEPARTED.

Per *Malta*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. Wm. Ker; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Chris J. Baner; for Marseilles, Lady L. Magenis and Miss Ashton; for London, Mr. A. C. Voules, Inspector W. Ford, Miss Hayday, Mr. E. Sellers, and Paymaster Thomas Hayes, R.N.; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. V. Delaisian; for Bombay, Mr. B. J. Shroff; for Marseilles, Mr. C. Noix; from Kobe, for Marseilles, Mr. A. Priestley, M.P.; for London, Rev. and Mrs. S. B. Drake and child, Mrs. and Miss Richards, Miss Nora Fiske, Mr. John Low, Capt. John McKeechie, Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Sutton and infant, and Major F. H. Wintle.

Per *Coptic*, for China and Japan ports, Mr. F. Marques, Capt. W. C. Passmore, and Mr. H. C. Marshall; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Jas. M. Bell, Miss E. G. Hones, Messrs. E. Thomas, J. H. Stuart, T. R. Henderson and W. J. Wood.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Shanghai, Messrs. L. Robert, P. Crighton, L. C. B. Edmondston, Mr. and Mrs. N. Goodmann; for Kobe, Mr. K. Yokoyama; for Yokohama, Mr. T. M. G. da Cruz.

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